

MAKOTO YUKIMURA

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VINLAND SAGA

BOOK NINE

WINLAND SAGA



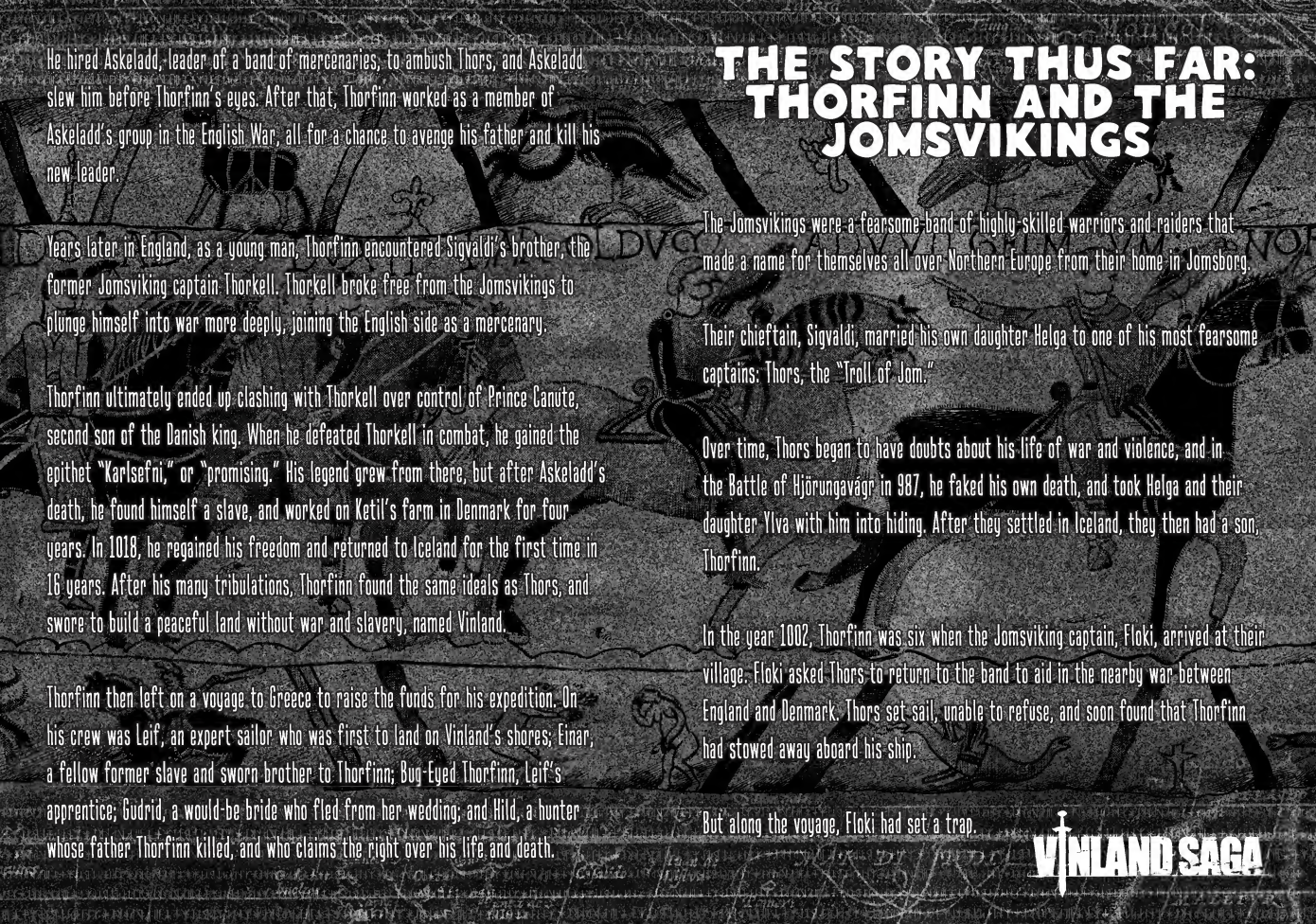
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 116: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (3)	7
CHAPTER 117: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (4)	29
CHAPTER 118: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (5)	57
CHAPTER 119: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (6)	83
CHAPTER 120: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (7)	113
CHAPTER 121: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (8)	143
CHAPTER 122: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (9)	167
CHAPTER 123: A BORROWED LIFE	201
CHAPTER 124: DEPARTING NORWAY	223
CHAPTER 125: WAR IN THE BALTIC (1)	243
CHAPTER 126: WAR IN THE BALTIC (2)	271
CHAPTER 127: WAR IN THE BALTIC (3)	299
CHAPTER 128: WAR IN THE BALTIC (4)	327
CHAPTER 129: WAR IN THE BALTIC (5)	353
TRANSLATION NOTES	389
ASK YUKIMURA	390



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He hired Askeladd, leader of a band of mercenaries, to ambush Thors, and Askeladd slew him before Thorfinn's eyes. After that, Thorfinn worked as a member of Askeladd's group in the English War, all for a chance to avenge his father and kill his new leader.

Years later in England, as a young man, Thorfinn encountered Sigvaldi's brother, the former Jomsviking captain Thorkell. Thorkell broke free from the Jomsvikings to plunge himself into war more deeply, joining the English side as a mercenary.

Thorfinn ultimately ended up clashing with Thorkell over control of Prince Canute, second son of the Danish king. When he defeated Thorkell in combat, he gained the epithet "Karlsefni," or "promising." His legend grew from there, but after Askeladd's death, he found himself a slave, and worked on Ketil's farm in Denmark for four years. In 1018, he regained his freedom and returned to Iceland for the first time in 16 years. After his many tribulations, Thorfinn found the same ideals as Thors, and swore to build a peaceful land without war and slavery, named Vinland.

Thorfinn then left on a voyage to Greece to raise the funds for his expedition. On his crew was Leif, an expert sailor who was first to land on Vinland's shores; Einar, a fellow former slave and sworn brother to Thorfinn; Bug-Eyed Thorfinn, Leif's apprentice; Gudrid, a would-be bride who fled from her wedding; and Hild, a hunter whose father Thorfinn killed, and who claims the right over his life and death.

THE STORY THUS FAR: THORFINN AND THE JOMSVIKINGS

The Jomsvikings were a fearsome band of highly-skilled warriors and raiders that made a name for themselves all over Northern Europe from their home in Jomsborg.

Their chieftain, Sigvaldi, married his own daughter Helga to one of his most fearsome captains: Thors, the "Troll of Jom."

Over time, Thors began to have doubts about his life of war and violence, and in the Battle of Hjörungavágr in 987, he faked his own death, and took Helga and their daughter Ylva with him into hiding. After they settled in Iceland, they then had a son, Thorfinn.

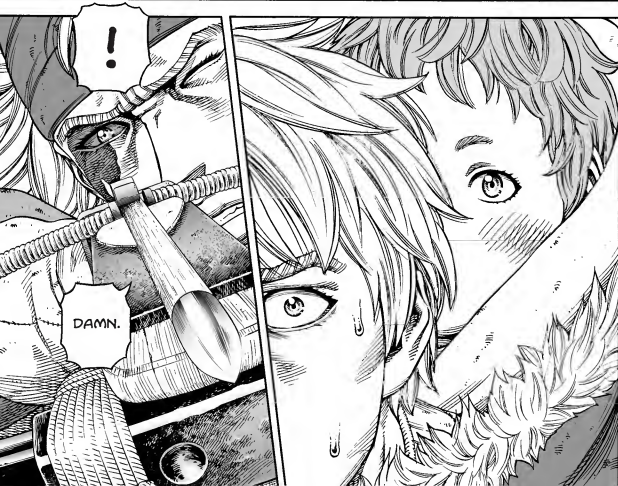
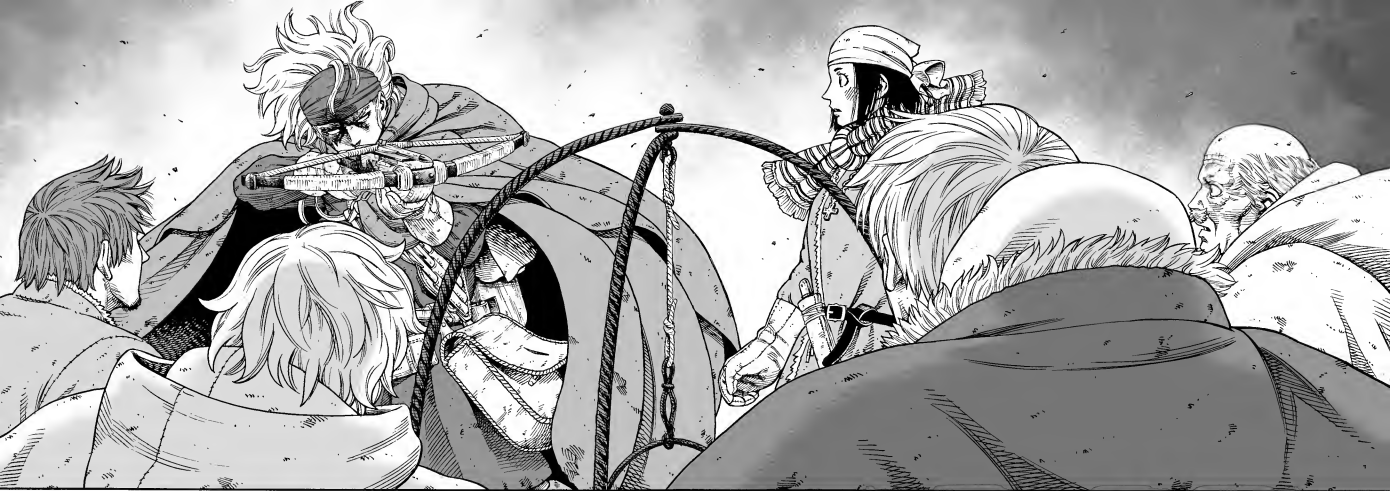
In the year 1002, Thorfinn was six when the Jomsviking captain, Floki, arrived at their village. Floki asked Thors to return to the band to aid in the nearby war between England and Denmark. Thors set sail, unable to refuse, and soon found that Thorfinn had stowed away aboard his ship.

But along the voyage, Floki had set a trap.

VINLAND SAGA

CHAPTER 116: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (3)



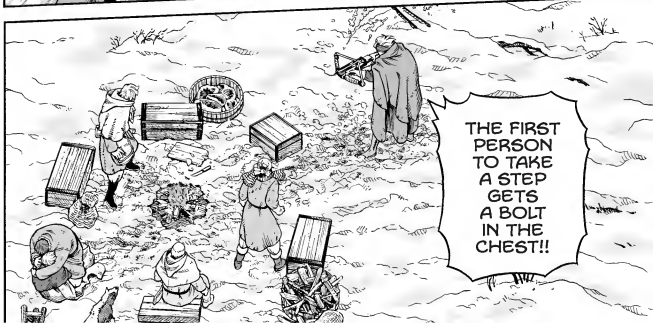








**NOBODY
MOVE!!**



**THE FIRST
PERSON
TO TAKE
A STEP
GETS
A BOLT
IN THE
CHEST!!**





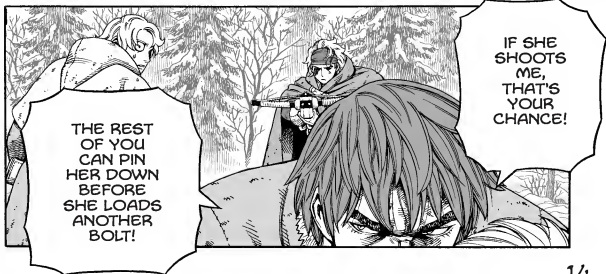
SHUT
UP!!
LET
HER
DO
IT!!

LET GO
OF ME,
EINAR!!
SHE'LL
SHOOT
YOU!!



YOU'RE
TOO
IMPORTANT
TO
DIE
HERE!!

I WON'T
LET YOU
DIE!

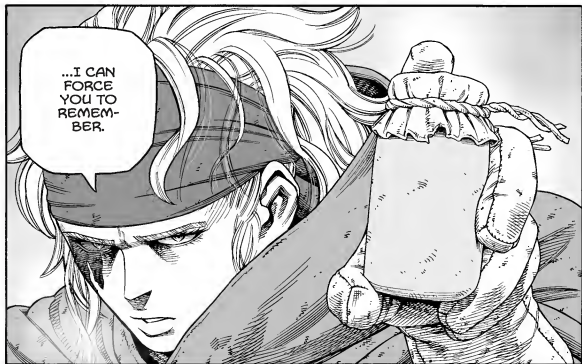


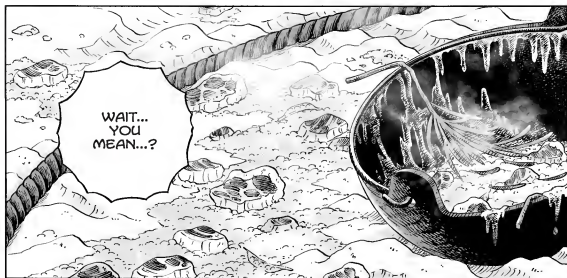
THE REST
OF YOU
CAN PIN
HER DOWN
BEFORE
SHE LOADS
ANOTHER
BOLT!

IF SHE
SHOOTS
ME,
THAT'S
YOUR
CHANCE!











IT'S A
CONCOCTION I USE
TO KILL
BEARS.

I
POISONED
THE
STEW.

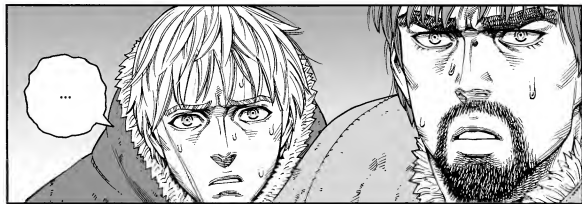
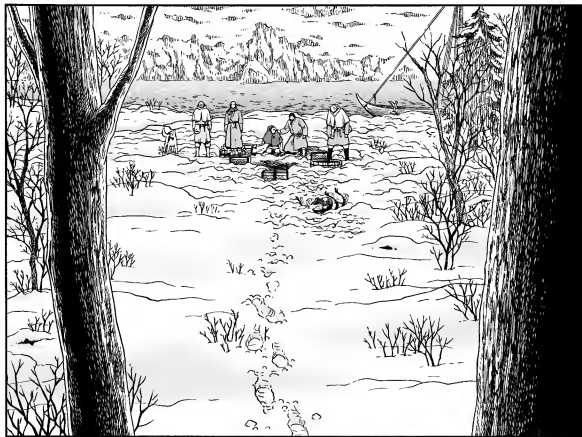
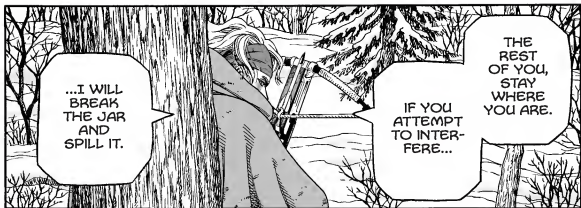


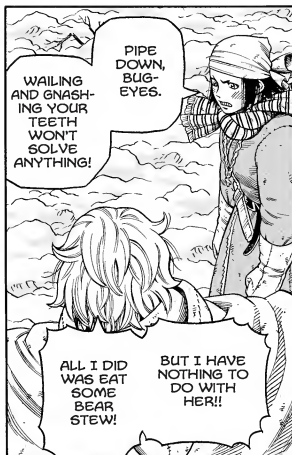
STILL,
YOU'LL
FEEL THE
EFFECTS
SOON
ENOUGH.

BUT
TAKEN
ORALLY,
IT WORKS
SLOWER.

IT WORKS
INSTANTLY
WHEN
APPLIED
TO A BOLT
HEAD.







WAILING
AND GNASH-
ING YOUR
TEETH
WON'T
SOLVE
ANYTHING!

PIPE
DOWN,
BUG-
EYES.

ALL I DID
WAS EAT
SOME
BEAR
STEW!

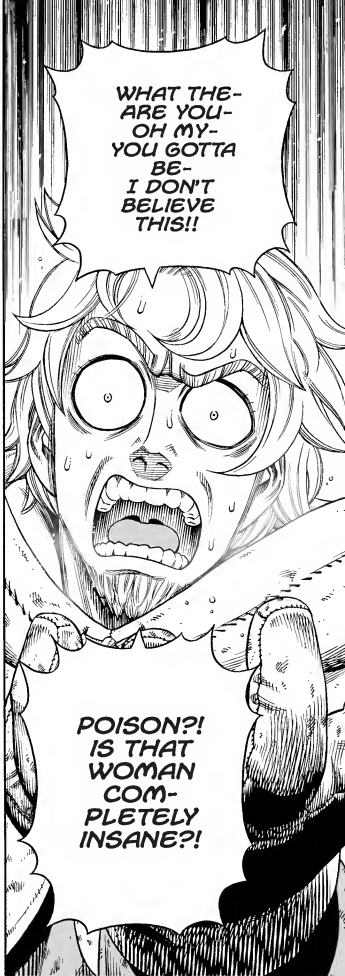
BUT I HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
HER!!



OKAY,
LOOK-I'M
SORRY, BUT
I HAVE TO
BE HONEST.
I CARE
ABOUT MY-
SELF A LOT,
GOT IT?!

DON'T
PRETEND
YOU'RE
ALONE
HERE! WE'RE
A CREW,
AND WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!

I AM
PRECIOUS...
IN THE
EYES...
OF ME!



WHAT THE-
ARE YOU-
OH MY-
YOU GOTTA
BE-
I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!!

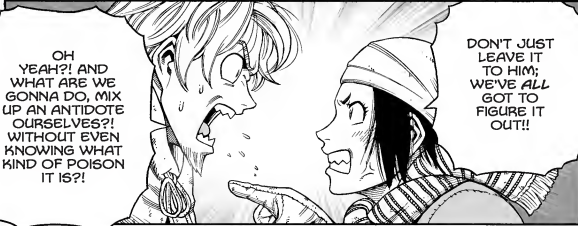
POISON?!
IS THAT
WOMAN
COM-
PLETLY
INSANE?!



YOU'VE
GOT TO
DO
SOME-
THING,
THORFINN!

SORRY?
SORRY'S
NOT
A REAL
APOLOGY!!

I'M
SORRY,
BUG-
EYES...



OH
YEAH?! AND
WHAT ARE WE
GONNA DO, MIX
UP AN ANTIDOTE
OURSELVES?!
WITHOUT EVEN
KNOWING WHAT
KIND OF POISON
IT IS?!

DON'T JUST
LEAVE IT
TO HIM;
WE'VE ALL
GOT TO
FIGURE IT
OUT!!



I'LL BE
BACK.

TAKE
CARE
OF
KARLI.



MAYBE
SHE ONLY
DID THAT
BECAUSE
SHE KNEW
SHE COULD
TAKE THE
CURE.

HOLD ON.
IT COULD
BE A
BLUFF.

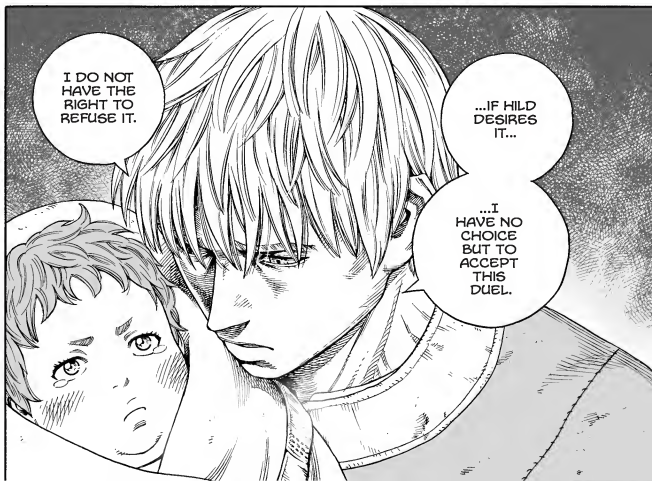
HILD HAD
SOME OF
THE STEW
AS WELL.



YES, BUT
NOT THAT
SHE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY.

AND...IN
EITHER
CASE...

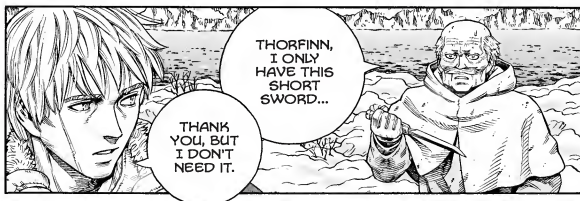
BUT
DIDN'T SHE
SAY SHE
DOESN'T
USE POISON
TO HUNT?

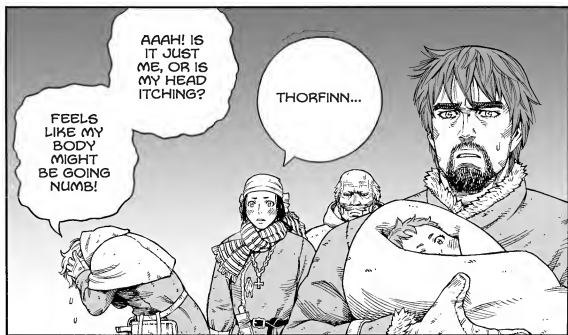


I DO NOT
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
REFUSE IT.

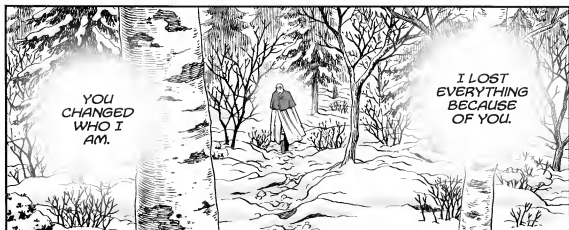
...IF HILD
DESIRES
IT...

...I
HAVE NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
ACCEPT
THIS
DUEL.



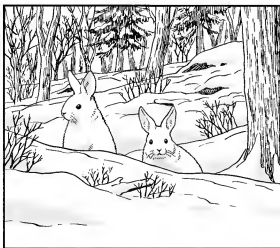






**CHAPTER 117: THE HUNTER AND
THE HUNTED (4)**







BUT IT
WAS THE
SAME
WITH THE
BEAR.

SHE
SHOULD
BE RIGHT
NEARBY...
BUT I DON'T
SENSE HER
AT ALL.

I DON'T
SENSE ANY
CAUTION
FROM THE
ANIMALS TO
SHOW THEY
DETECT
ANOTHER...

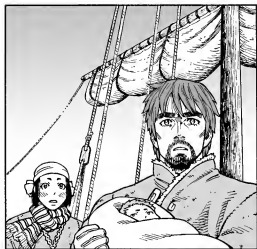


CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?!

HILD!



A TRUE
HUNTER...



CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?!

CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?!

CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?!

CAN
YOU
HEAR
ME?!

I DO
NOT KNOW
HOW I CAN
APOLOGIZE
TO YOU...OR
HOW I CAN
ATONE, BUT
I WILL DO
IT.

I HAVE
DONE
SOMETHING
UNFORGIV-
ABLE TO
YOU...AND
TO YOUR
FAMILY.

I
CANNOT
AFFORD
TO DIE
ON THIS
DAY!

BUT I
WILL
NOT
DIE.



...IS THAT
YOU GIVE
ME THE
TIME TO
LIVE SO
THAT
I MAY
ATONE
FOR MY
CRIME!!

I AM
AWARE
THAT THIS
IS A SELFISH
THING FOR
ME TO SAY!
ALL I ASK
OF YOU...



GIVE
THEM
THE
ANTID...

ALSO...
MY COM-
PANIONS
ARE NOT
RESPON-
SIBLE FOR
ANY OF
THIS!





DAMN...
DO I HAVE
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
FIGHT?!

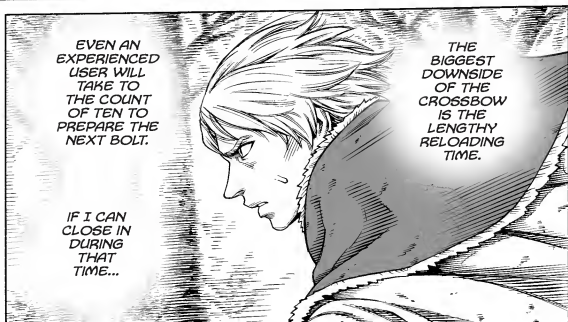
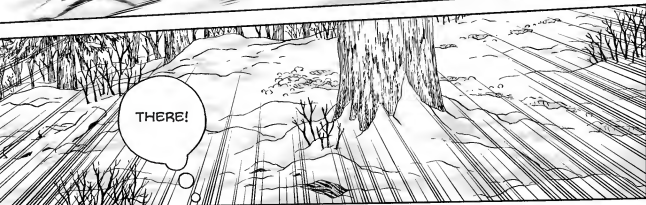
FROM
THAT
WAY!

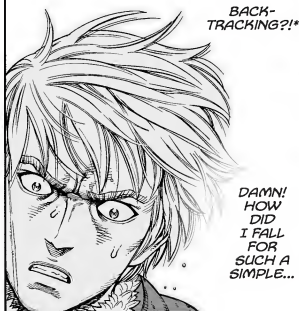


I CAN'T
HIT HIM
UNLESS
I DRAW
CLOSER.

HE
DODGED
AFTER
THE
SOUND!

HIS
REFLEXES
ARE
NIMBLE.



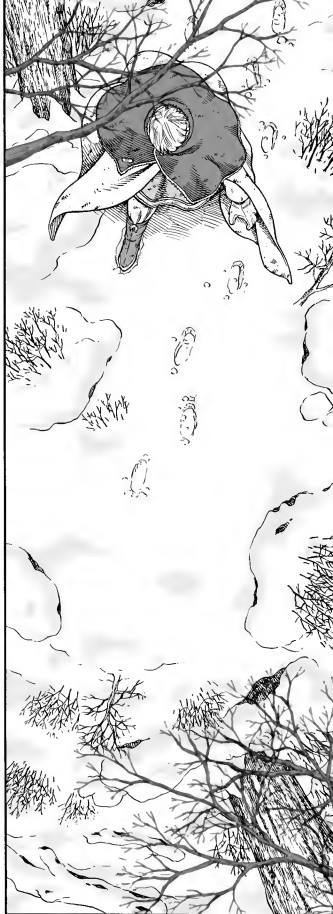


BACK-
TRACKING?!*

DAMN!
HOW
DID
I FALL
FOR
SUCH A
SIMPLE...



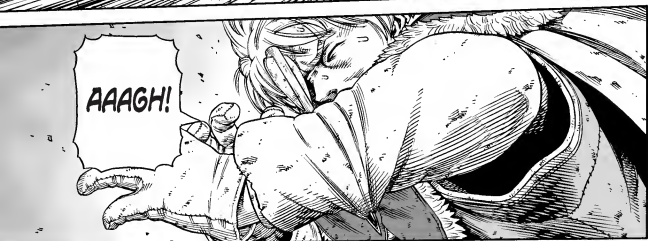
OH NO!!
I'M IN THE
OPEN...



*BACKTRACKING: RETRACING ONE'S STEPS IN REVERSE IN THE SNOW UNTIL THERE IS ROOM TO LEAP OFF THE PATH INTO UNDERGROWTH. THIS THROWS OFF PURSUERS BY MAKING THE TRAIL APPEAR TO END ABRUPTLY. SOME WILD ANIMALS LIKE BEARS DO THIS, TOO.



BAMMM

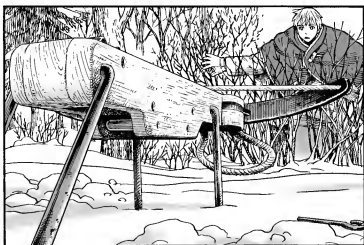
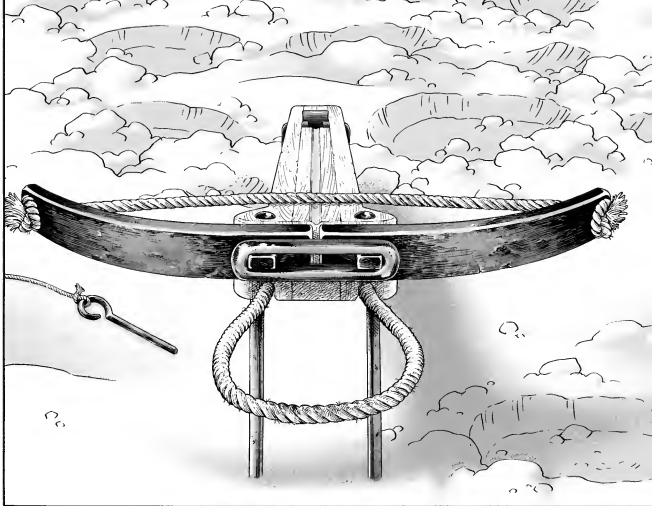


AAAGH!



**OVER
THERE!!**

**SHE'S
CLOSE!!**

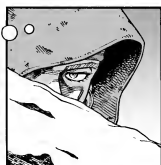






THIS
MIGHT
LAST A
WHILE...

PERHAPS
I SHOULD
PULL
BACK.



THIS
WILL
BE NO
SIMPLE
HUNT...

I CAN'T
HIT HIM
AT A
DISTANCE.

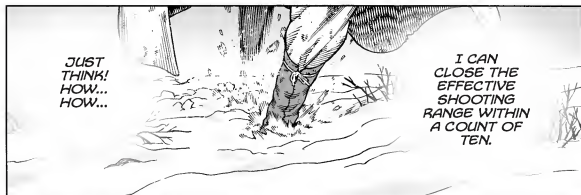
IF
I GET
TOO
CLOSE,
HE'LL
SENSE
ME.



IT'S
THE ONLY
WAY TO
ACTUALLY
CLOSE THE
DISTANCE.

I HAVE
TO SEE
HILD
WITH
MY OWN
EYES.

IF I CAN
JUST SPOT
HER...



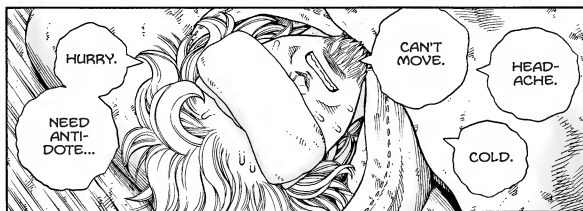
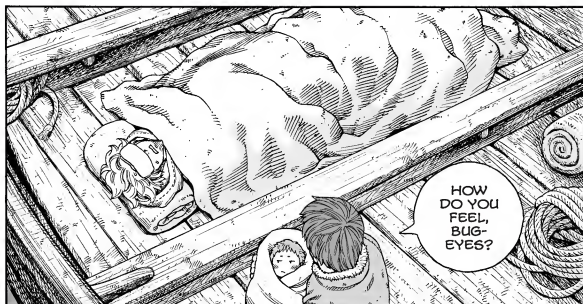
JUST
THINK!
HOW...
HOW...

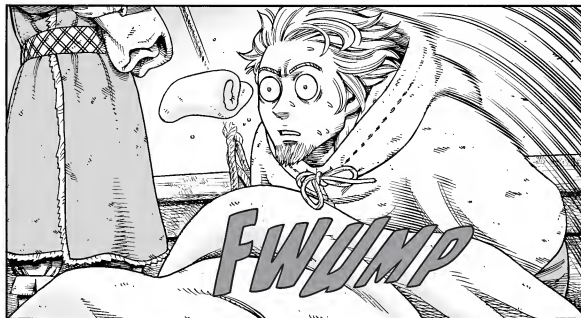
I CAN
CLOSE THE
EFFECTIVE
SHOOTING
RANGE WITHIN
A COUNT OF
TEN.



IT'S SO
QUIET...

...







AT
THE VERY
LEAST, IT'S NOT
MEANT TO BE
GROUND INTO
POWDER AND
SWALLOWED,
I THINK.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
THE GREEKS
TURN IT INTO
MEDICINE.

PERHAPS
THEY MIX IT
WITH OTHER
INGREDIENTS
AND PERFORM
SOME OTHER
TREATMENT
ON IT?



FFF
HAHH

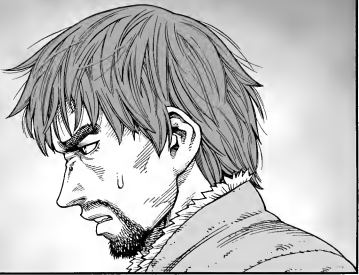
FFF
HAHH



CALM
DOWN,
BUG-
EYES.

**HIT ME,
EINAR!**

GRAB THIS
THING AND
WHACK
ME OVER
THE HEAD
WITH IT!!

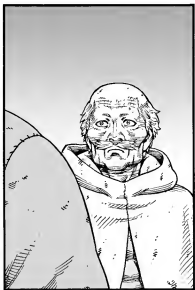


IT'S
THORFINN
WHO'S TRULY
IN DANGER
AT THIS
MOMENT.



DID
SHE
REALLY
POISON
OUR
STEW?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
EINAR?



MM...
I DON'T
KNOW,
EITHER.

BUT
I JUST
GET THE
FEELING...
THAT SHE
WOULDN'T DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.



BUT SHE
CERTAINLY
HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY.

I DON'T
KNOW...



EVEN
I UNDERSTAND
HOW IT FEELS
TO BURN WITH
VENGEANCE AND
FORGET YOUR
CONSCIENCE.

YES...

SHE MIGHT
BE BRUSQUE,
BUT SHE'S
NOT EVIL.



...WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO,
LEIF?

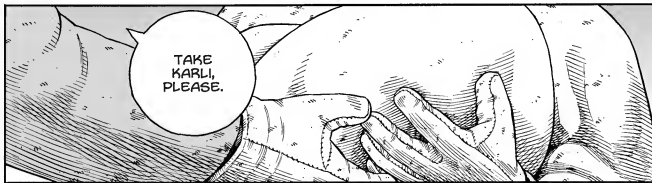


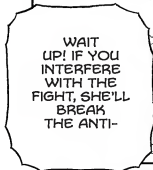
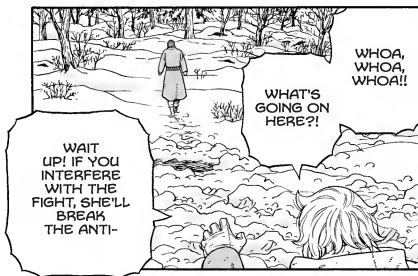
...AND
THAT HE'S
SPENDING
HIS LIFE
TRYING TO
ATONE FOR
HIS SINS...?

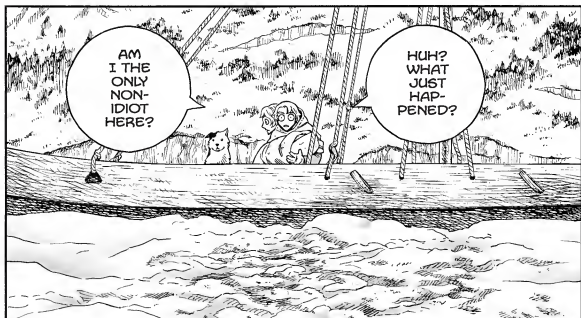
HOW CAN
THORFINN
MAKE HILD
UNDER-
STAND...

...THAT
HE TRULY
REGRETS
HIS PAST...





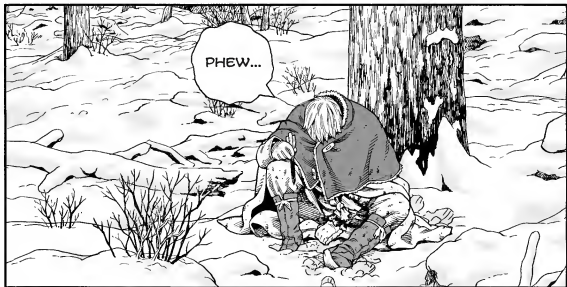
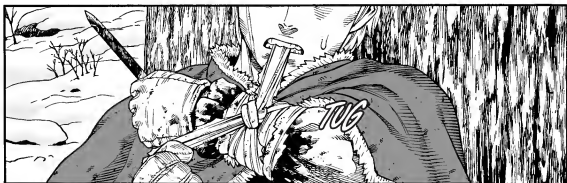


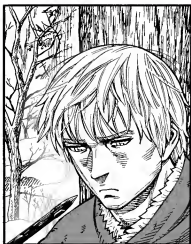


I
JUST
DON'T
KNOW IF
I CAN
DO IT AS
WELL AS
HE...

THE
SAME
WAY...

...THAT
THORFINN
HELPED ME
COME TO MY
SENSES WHEN
I WAS BLIND
WITH RAGE
AT KETIL.





IT MIGHT
JUST BE A
FLAVOR-
LESS
POISON
INSTEAD.

BUT,
WAIT.

NO
POISON
ON THIS
BOLT, IT
SEEMS...

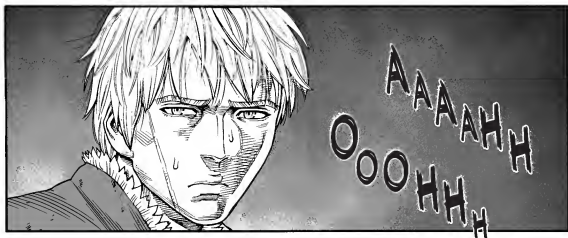


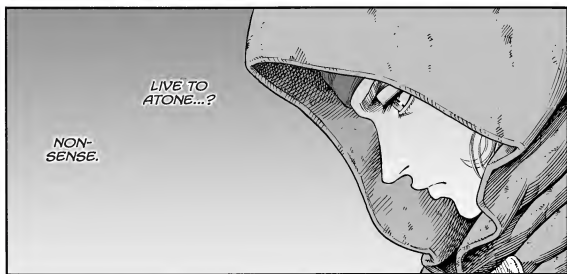
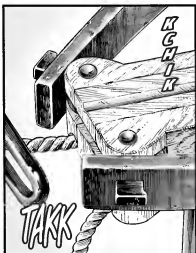
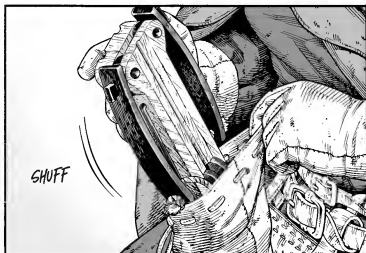
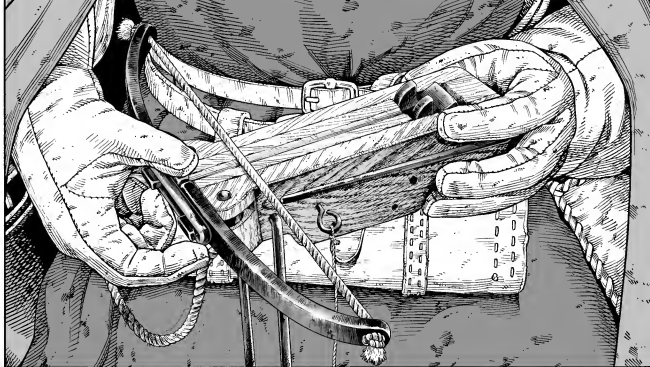
BUT
THERE'S
NO TIME...
HOW DO
I FIND HER
...?

IF I STOP,
I MAKE
MYSELF A
TARGET.

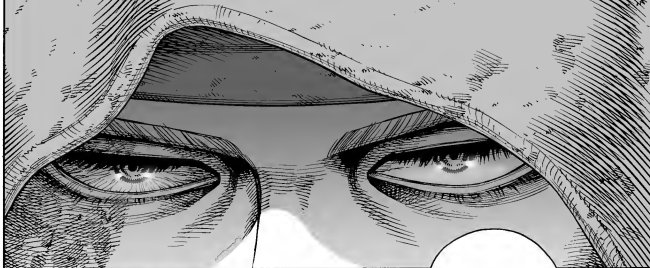
GOT TO
KEEP
ON THE
MOVE.









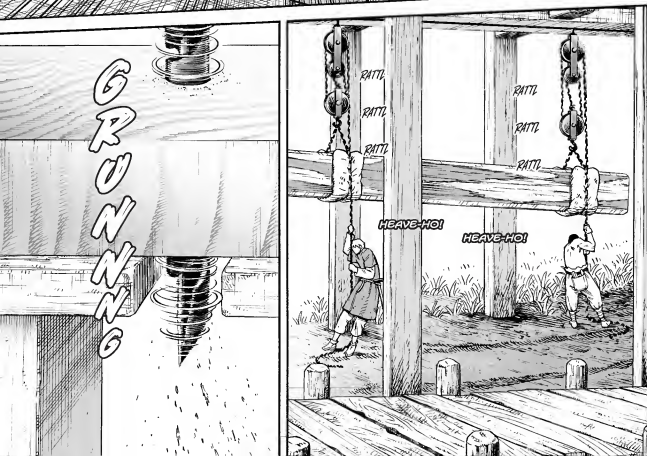


AND
IF YOU
CAN'T...

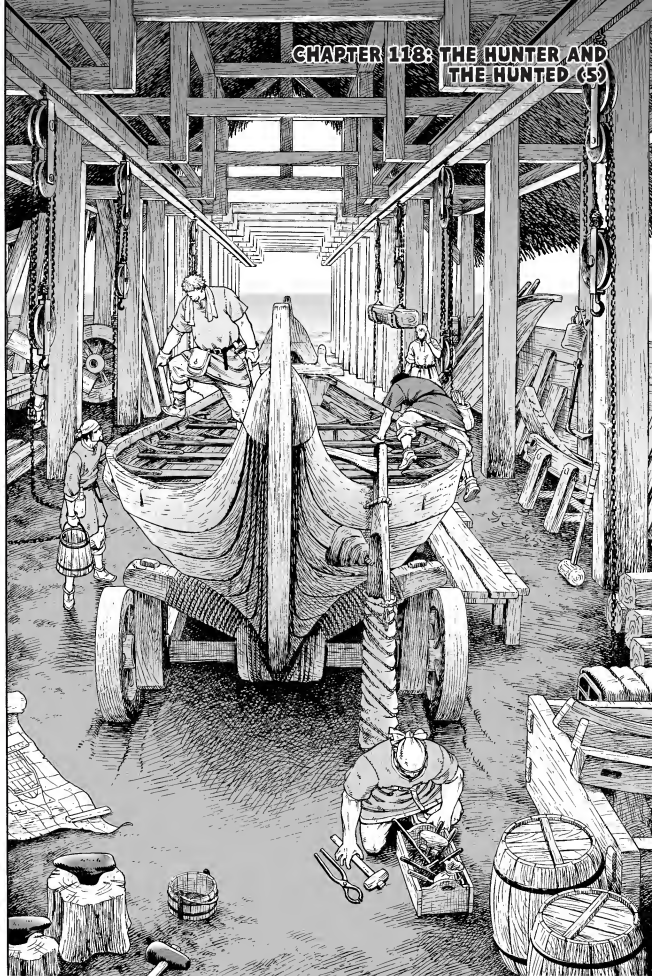


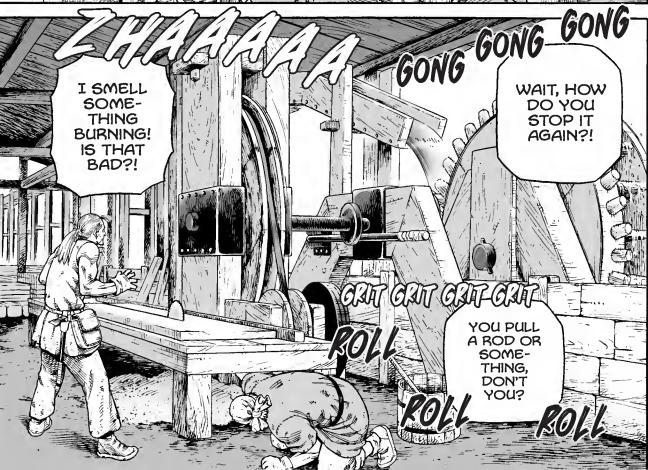
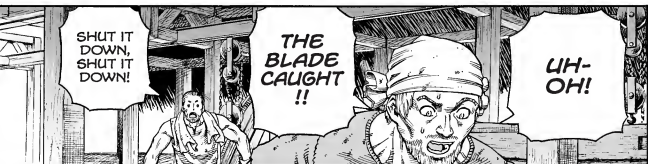
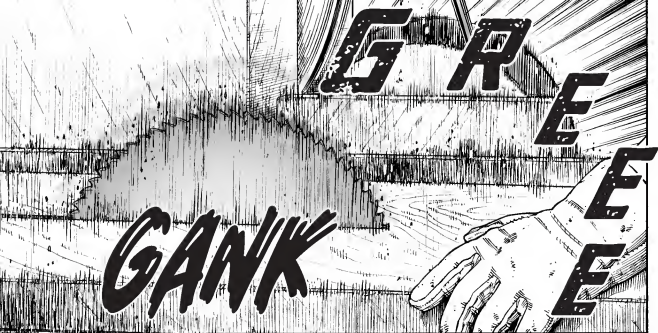
...THEN YOU
WILL ATONE
WITH YOUR
DEATH,
THORFINN.

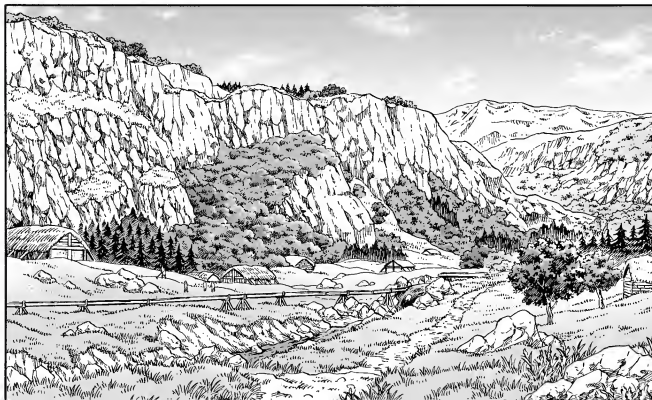


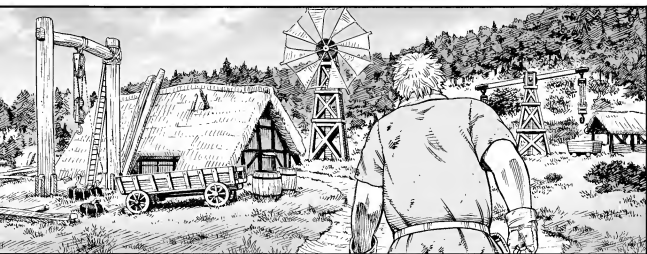


**CHAPTER 118: THE HUNTER AND
THE HUNTED (5)**

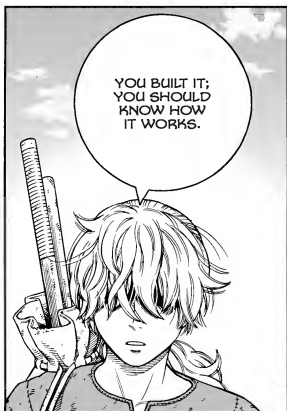
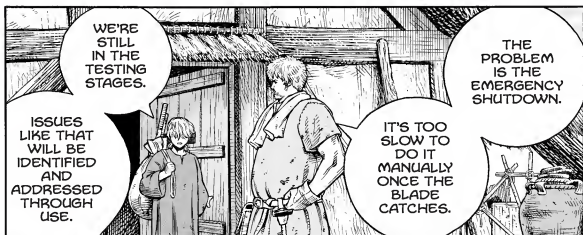


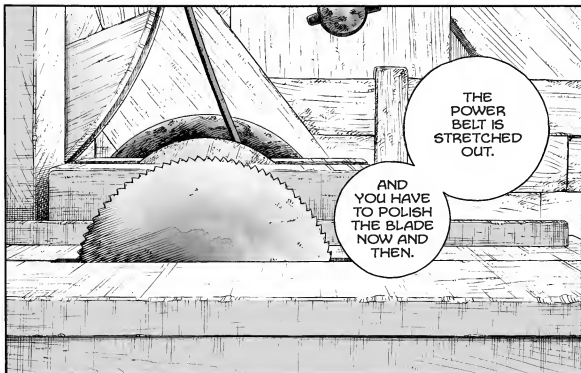






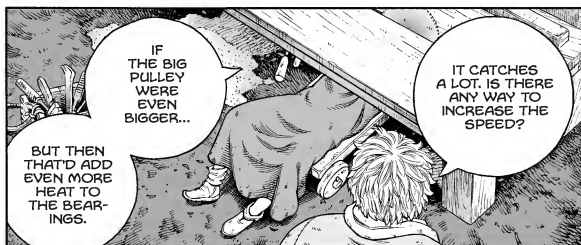






THE
POWER
BELT IS
STRETCHED
OUT.

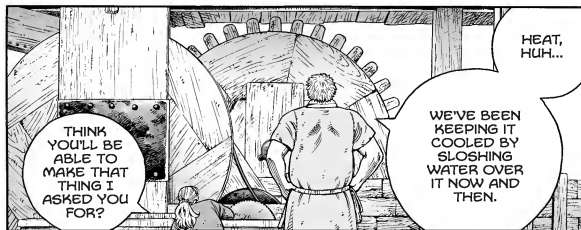
AND
YOU HAVE
TO POLISH
THE BLADE
NOW AND
THEN.



IF
THE BIG
PULLEY
WERE
EVEN
BIGGER...

BUT THEN
THAT'D ADD
EVEN MORE
HEAT TO
THE BEAR-
INGS.

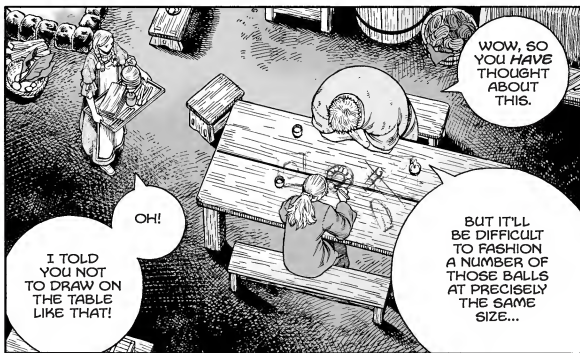
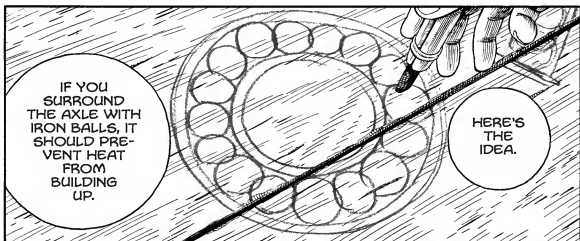
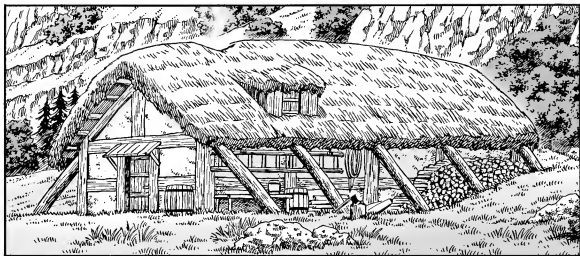
IT CATCHES
A LOT. IS THERE
ANY WAY TO
INCREASE THE
SPEED?

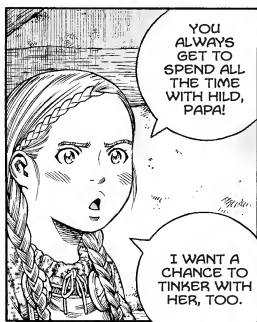


HEAT,
HUH...

THINK
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO
MAKE THAT
THING I
ASKED YOU
FOR?

WE'VE BEEN
KEEPING IT
COOLED BY
SLOSHING
WATER OVER
IT NOW AND
THEN.



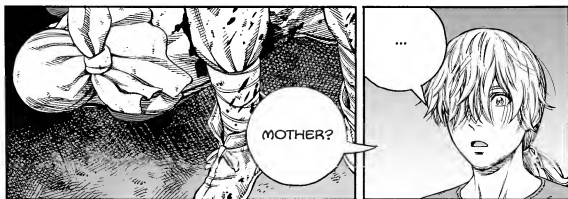
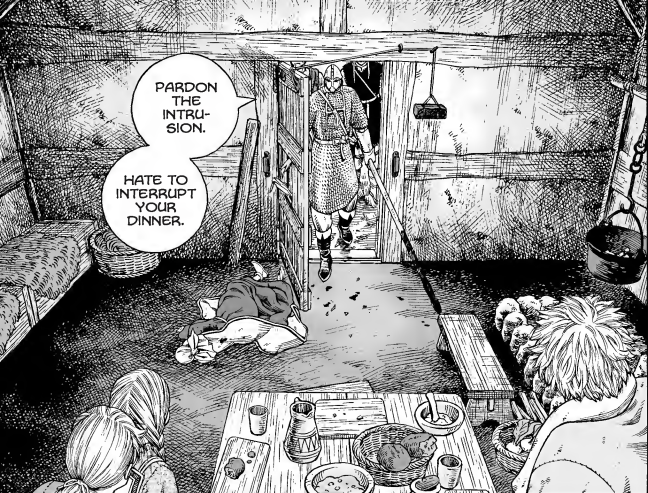


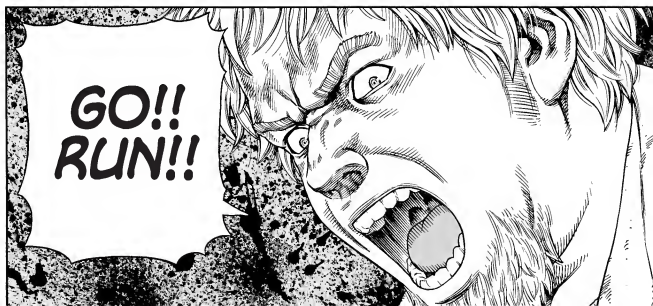
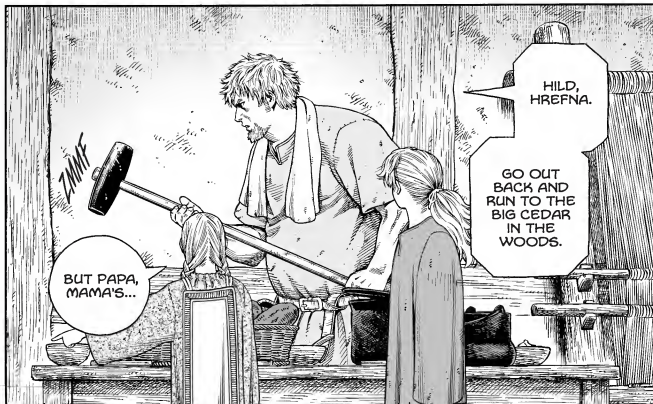


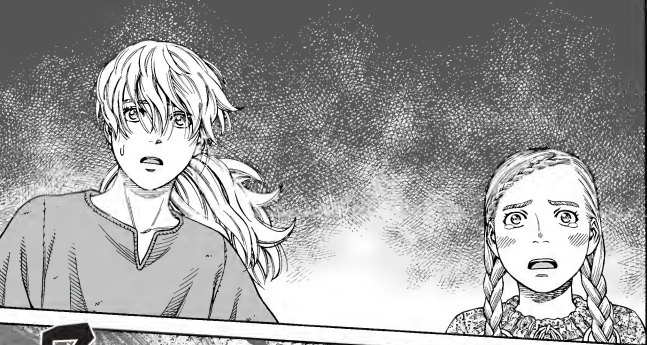
















COME ON!
I KNOW
YOU'RE
BETTER
THAN
THAT!!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
HRAFNKELL
GOT
AWAY?!

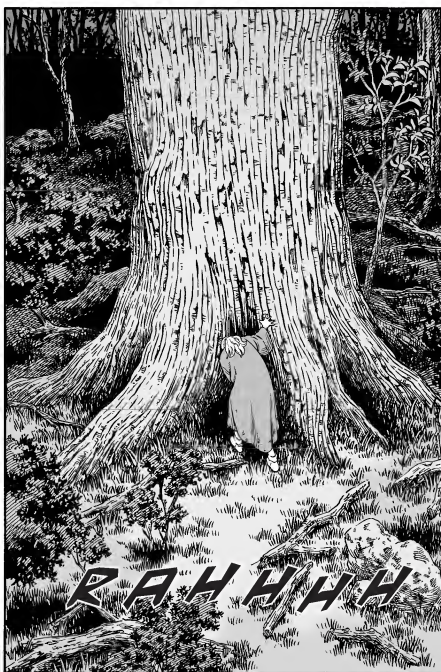


WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
GET PAID IF
WE DON'T
KILL HRAFN-
KELL!

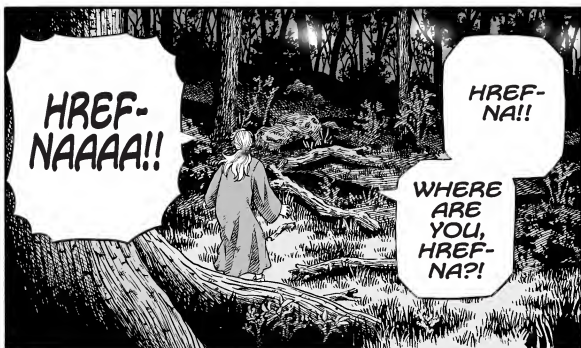
OH, THIS
IS JUST
GREAT.

SORRY,
ASKELADD.
HE WAS
TOUGHER
THAN WE
GAVE HIM
CREDIT
FOR.

HE
KILLED
TWO OF
US.











HILD...
LISTEN
TO ME.

YOU MUST
NEVER
FORGET
THIS.



...REMEMBER
THE
TEACHINGS
OF CHRIST.

LATER ON,
WHEN YOU
FEEL LIKE THE
HATRED AND
ANGER THREATEN
TO CRUSH
YOUR SOUL...

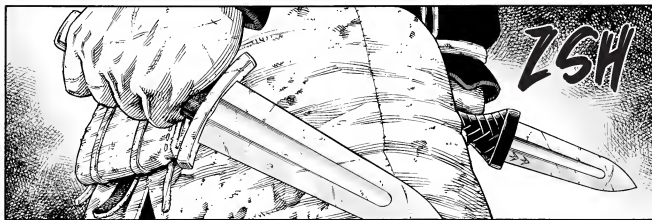






CHAPTER 119: THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (6)



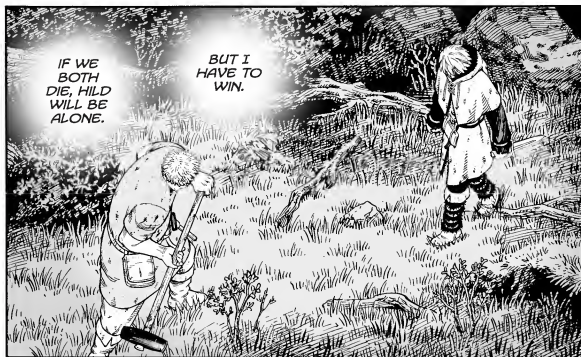






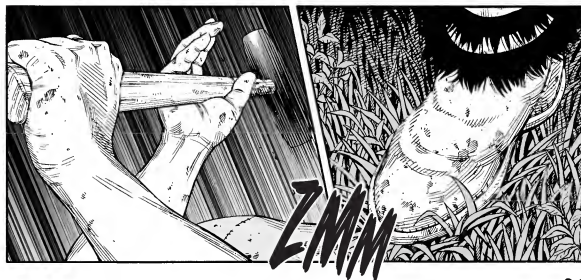
NO SIGN
OF ANY
OTHERS...
HE'S ON
HIS OWN.

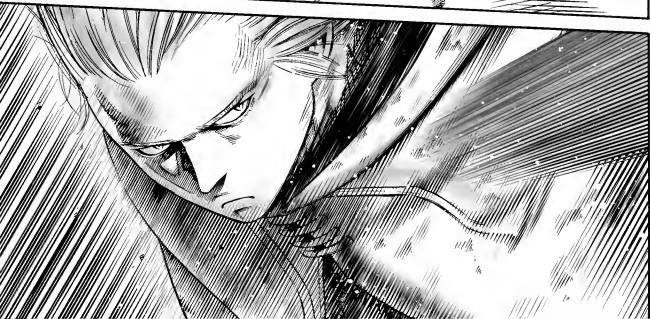
IF I KILL
HIM, I CAN
MAKE MY
ESCAPE.



IF WE
BOTH
DIE, HILD
WILL BE
ALONE.

BUT I
HAVE TO
WIN.

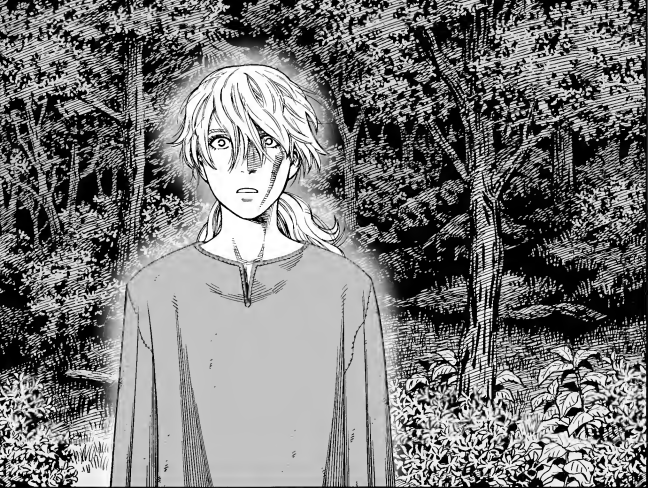
















THEY'LL
BE HERE
SOON.

AND
THEY'RE
THE KIND OF
BRUTES WHO
WILL KIDNAP,
RAPE, AND SELL
OFF A LITTLE
GIRL LIKE
YOU.



SO GET
LOST.

YOU CAN
STILL
SURVIVE.



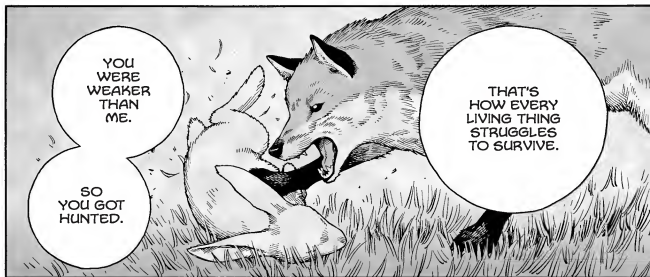
WHY?

WHY
DID YOU
KILL MY
FAMILY?



THE
STRONG
HUNT THE
WEAK. IT'S
A FACT OF
LIFE.

THIS IS
A HUNT.



YOU
WERE
WEAKER
THAN
ME.

SO
YOU GOT
HUNTED.

THAT'S
HOW EVERY
LIVING THING
STRUGGLES
TO SURVIVE.



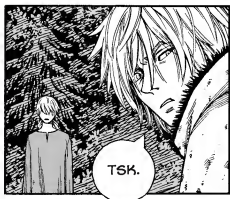
IF YOU WANT
TO HATE ANY-
THING, HATE
YOUR OWN
WEAKNESS.

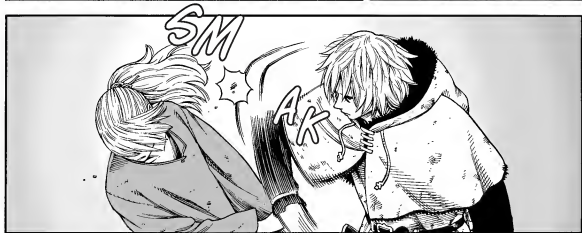


I AM THE
HUNTER...

...AND YOU
ARE THE
HUNTED.

IT'S
JUST AS
SIMPLE AS
THAT.







I'LL BE
HUNTED,
TOO.

EVERY-
ONE...

MY WHOLE
FAMILY WAS
HUNTED.

BECAUSE
THEY'RE
STRONG...

...AND
WE'RE
WEAK.

GEH HAH HAH!

WAIT UP,
LITTLE GIRL!

WE'RE
WEAK.





CRACK



NAH.
SHE'S
JUST ONE
LITTLE
GIRL.

THORFINN
ALREADY
TOOK
CARE OF
HRAFNKELL
FOR US.

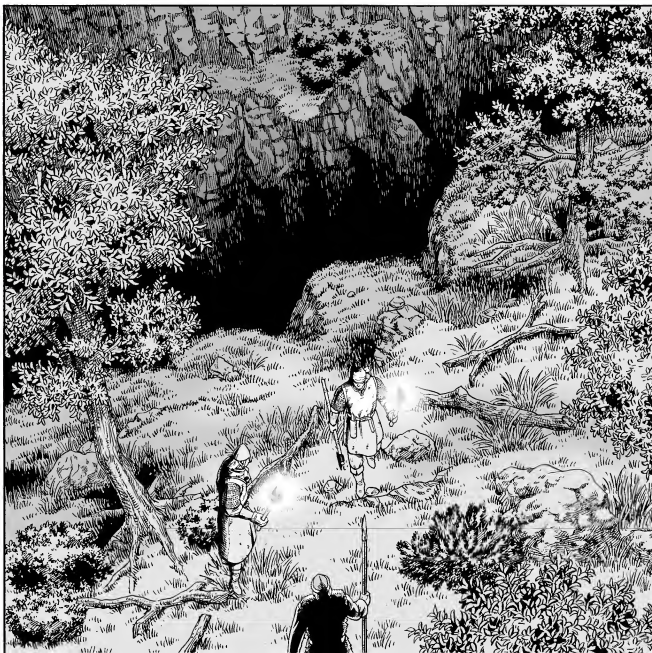
SHOULD
WE CLIMB
DOWN AND
GET HER?



SPLAASH...

UH-
OH.

THAT
WAS
WATER.
GUESS
IT MUST
BE MARSH
DOWN
THERE.





I'M
WEAK...

...SO I'M
HUNTED.

I KNOW
YOU CAN
DO IT.



FORGIVE
YOUR
FELLOW
MAN.

YOU
DON'T
MEAN...
THOSE
MURDER-
ERS?

WHO
WOULD I
FORGIVE?
YOU?
MYSELF?

WHY...WHY
WOULD
YOU SAY
THAT,
FATHER?

...THAT
MEANS
ACCEPT-
ING THAT
I EXIST
TO BE
HUNTED.

IF I
FORGIVE
THEM...

I
CAN'T.

I CAN'T
FORGIVE
THEM.

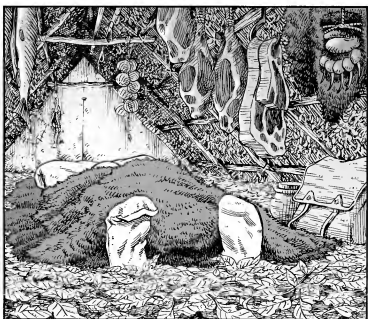
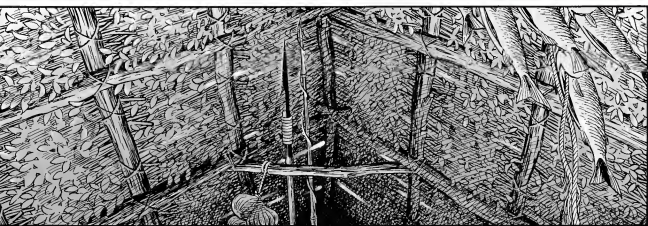


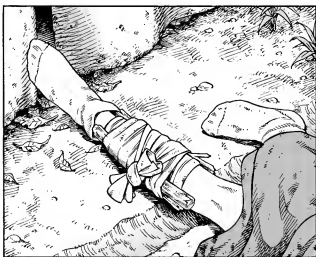
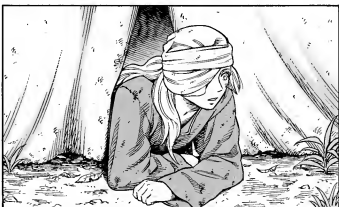
...MYSELF,
FOR BEING
HUNTED.

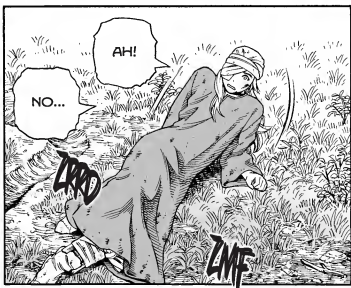
I CANNOT
FORGIVE...

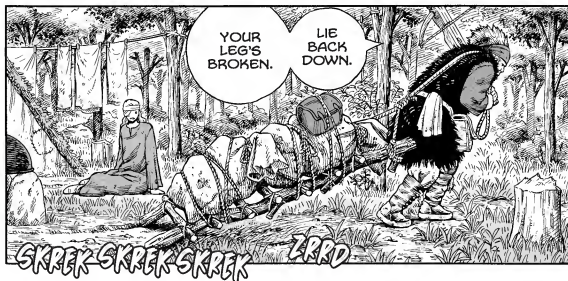
I CANNOT
FORGIVE...

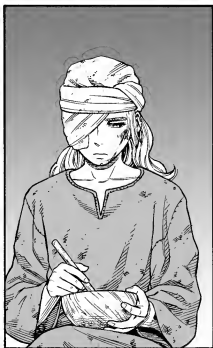
...THOSE
KILLERS.

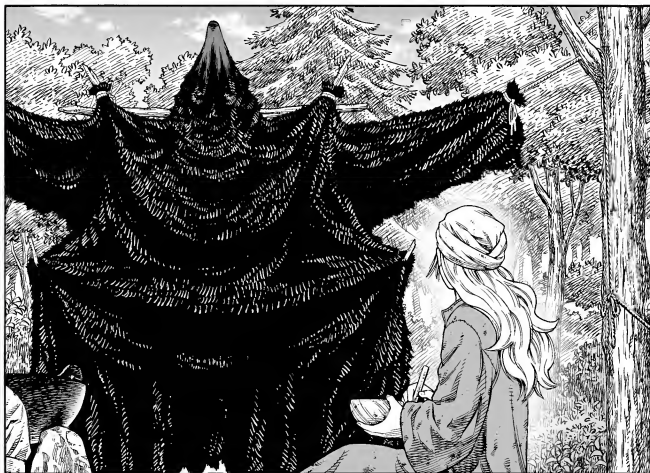
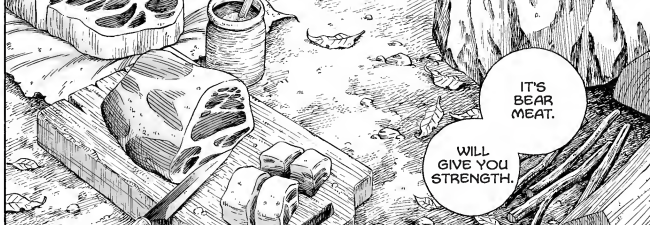


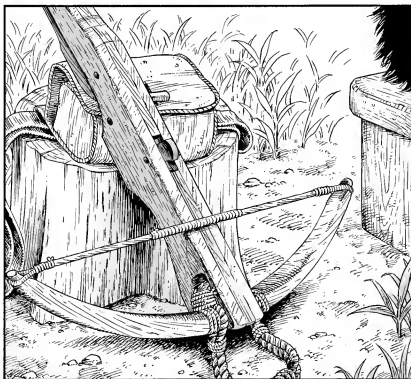














CHAPTER 120:
THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (7)

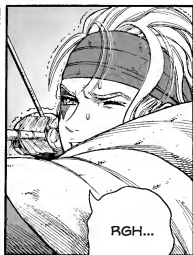
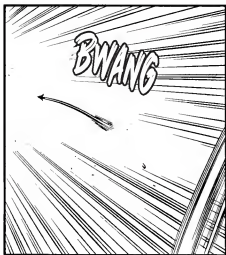
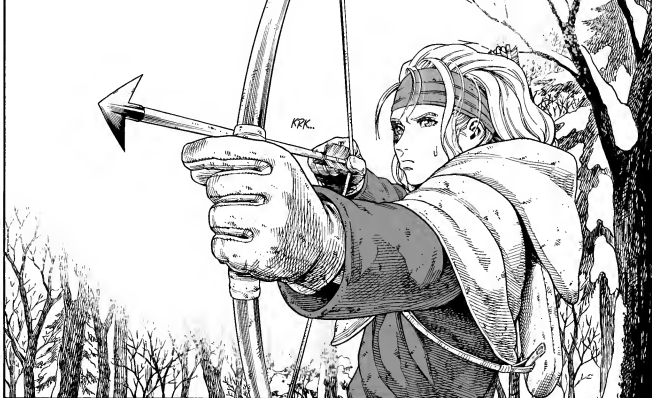




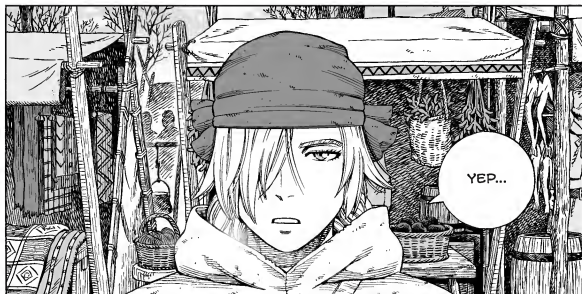




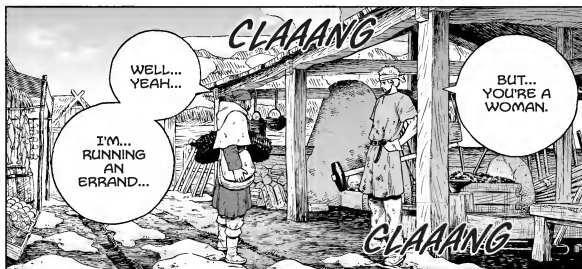








YEP...



WELL...
YEAH...

I'M...
RUNNING
AN
ERRAND...

BUT...
YOU'RE A
WOMAN.



THANKS...

THEY'RE
HEAVY.

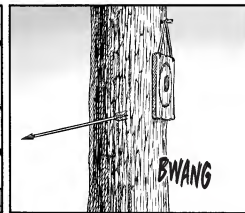
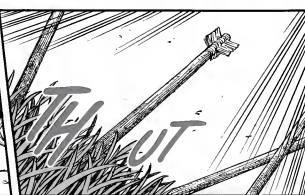
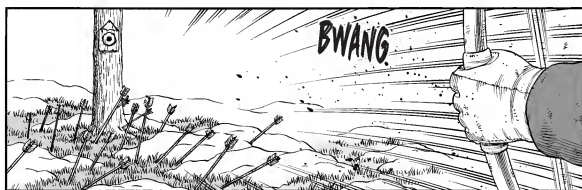
CLANK

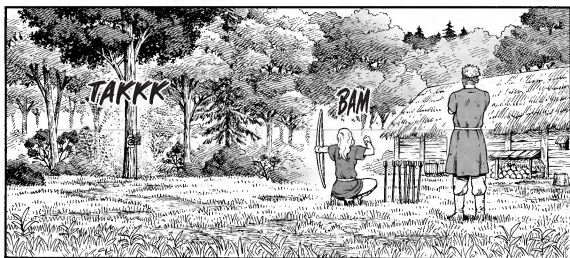
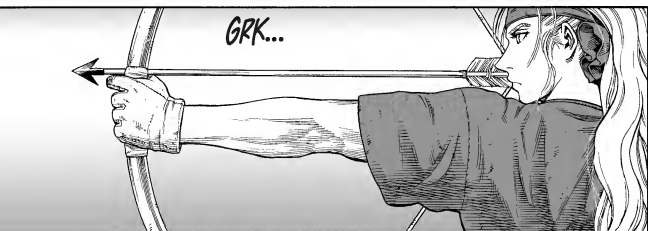


IN
EXCHANGE
FOR ONE
BEAR PELT.

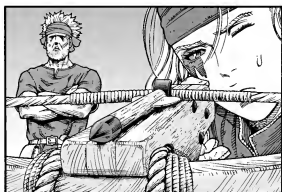
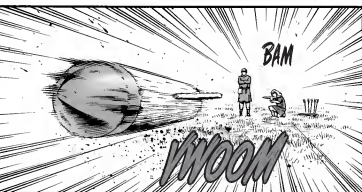
AH, OF
COURSE.
I'VE GOT
THE SIXTY
ARROW-
HEADS,
RIGHT
HERE.

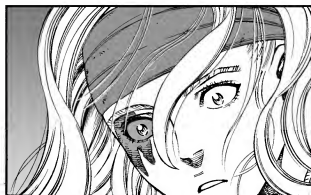
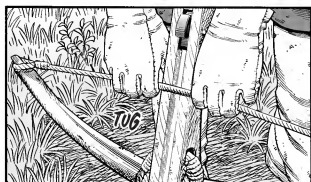
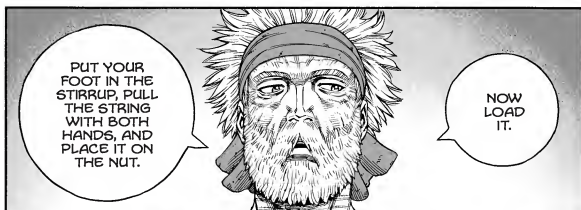


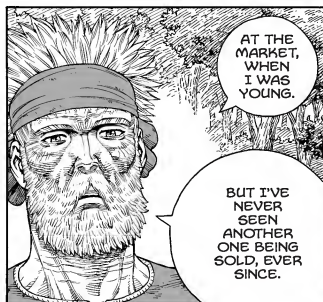
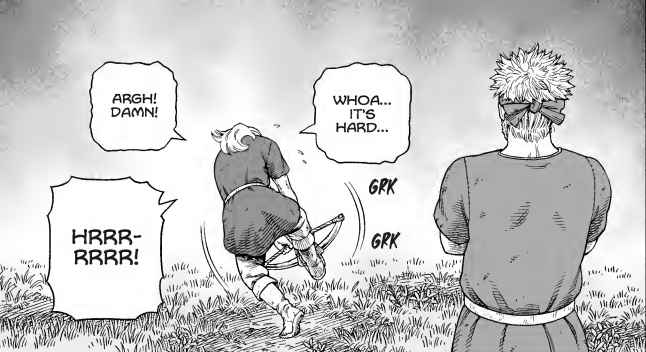


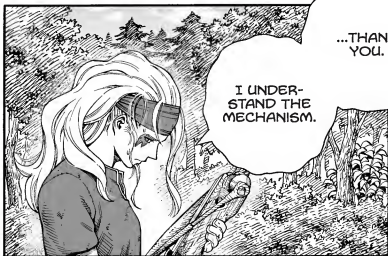












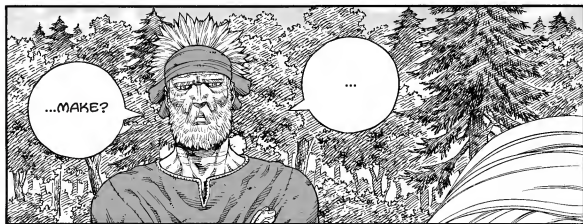
...THANK
YOU.

I UNDER-
STAND THE
MECHANISM.



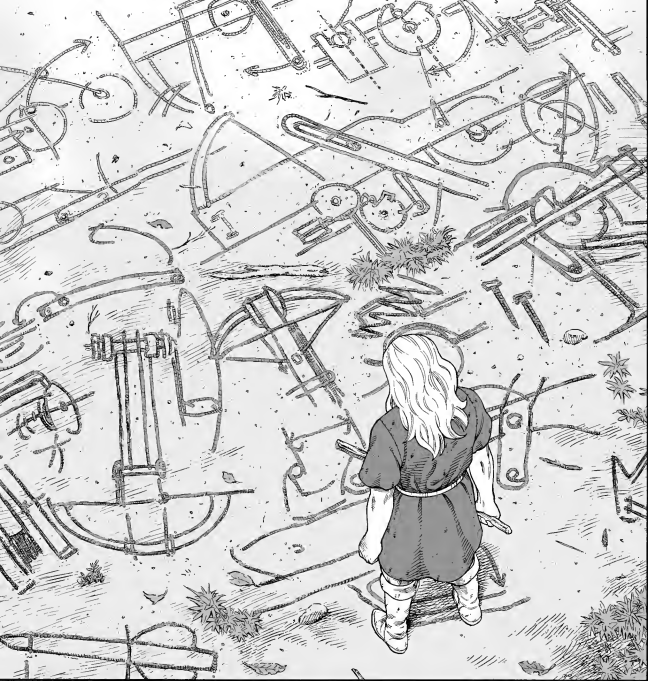
I WILL
MAKE
ONE.

I'LL
MAKE
A CROSS-
BOW THAT
A WOMAN
CAN USE...

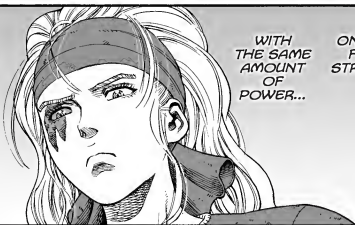


...MAKE?

...

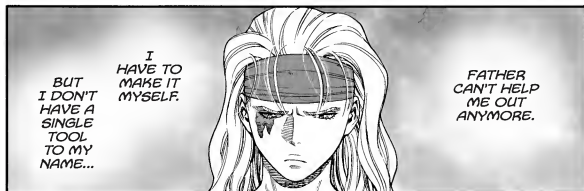
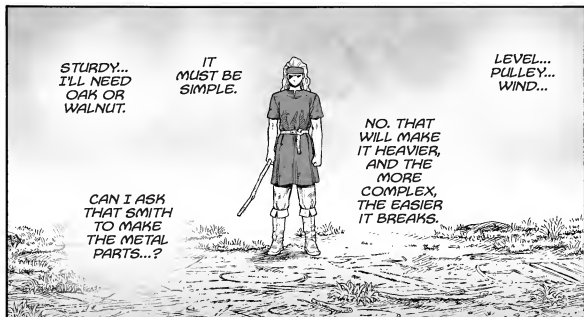


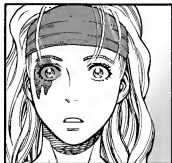
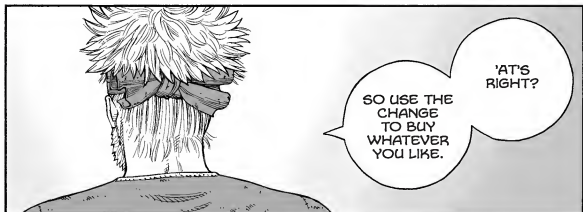
AND
QUICKER
TO
RELOAD,
IF POSSI-
BLE...

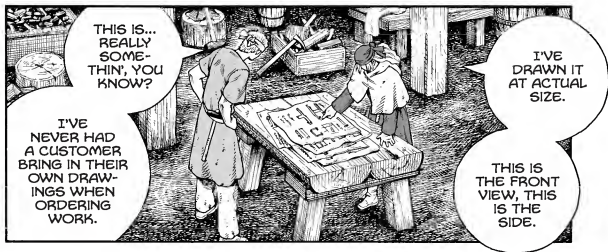
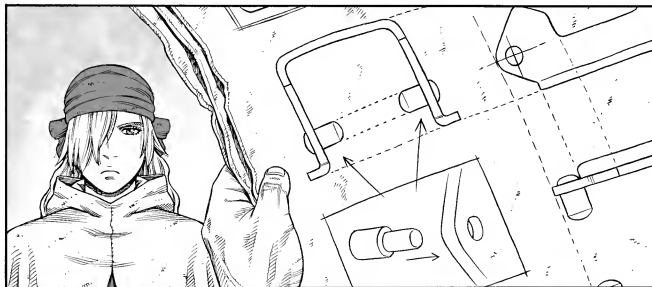


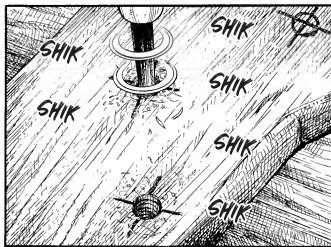
WITH
THE SAME
AMOUNT
OF
POWER...

ONE SIZED
FOR MY
STRENGTH...





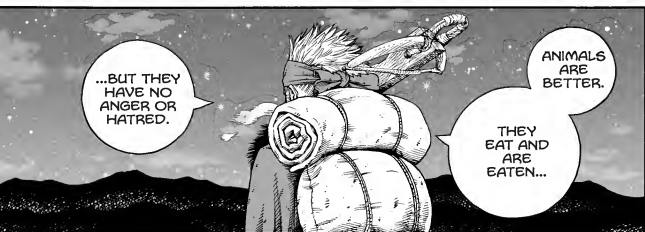






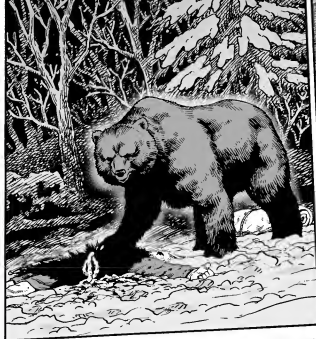








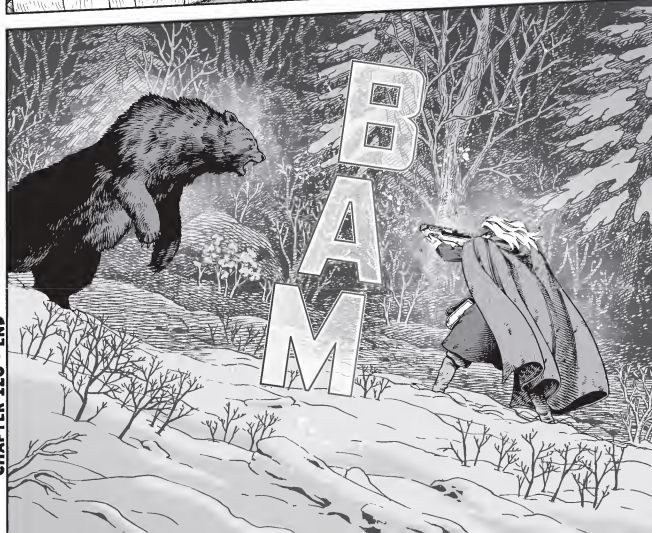


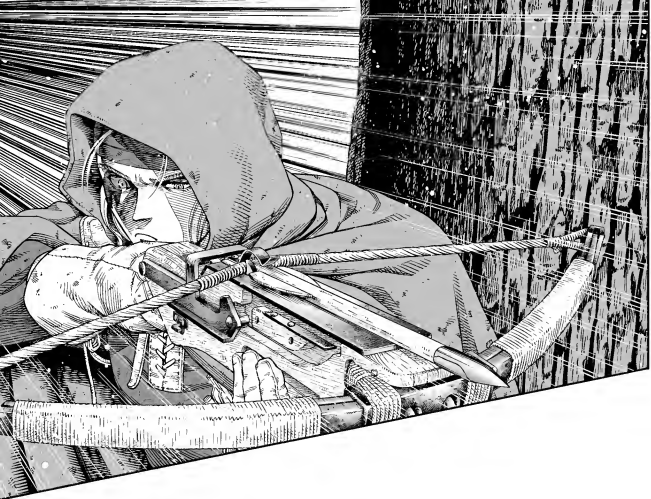


YOU
MON-
STER...

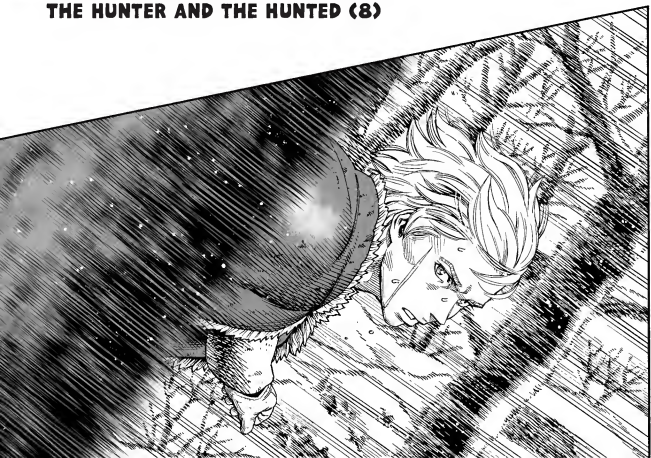
I WILL
HUNT
YOU
NOW!







**CHAPTER 121:
THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED (8)**







I'VE GOT
TO GET THAT
ANTIDOTE
AND RETURN
NOW...

DAMN IT!
THERE'S NO
TIME...



DO I JUST
HAVE TO
GO FOR
IT?

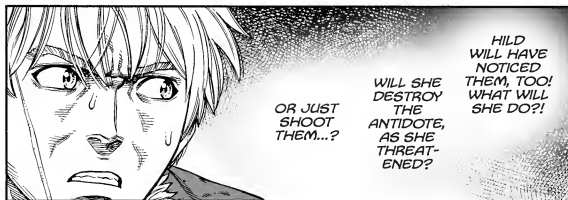
NOW OR
NEVER...



THERE
SHE
IS...!

SWISH







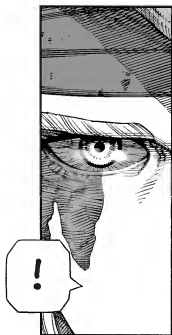
WHAT IS
THIS...?

SOME
PLOT FOR
THORFINN TO
ATTRACT MY
ATTENTION SO
THE OTHERS
COULD SNEAK
BEHIND
ME?



THEY
DON'T KNOW
WHERE I AM
OR WHERE
THORFINN IS.

NO...THOSE
AREN'T THE
MOVEMENTS
OF A
COORDINATED
TEAM.

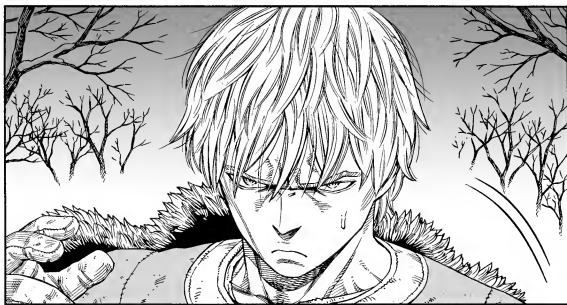


!

IF THE THREAT
OF POISON
FAILED TO KEEP
THEM THERE,
I'LL HAVE TO
HIT THEIR LEGS
TO IMMOBILIZE
THEM...

THEY'LL BE
EASIER TARGETS
THAN THORFINN,
I'M SURE.













OF
COURSE
THORFINN
WOULD
KNOW.

HE'S
COMING
STRAIGHT
FOR ME.



THAT THE
GREATEST
WEAKNESS
OF THE
CROSSBOW...

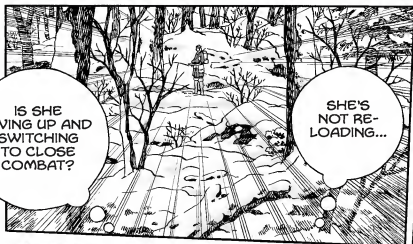
...IS THE
LOADING
TIME.

ISH...



IT SHOULD
TAKE HER
A WHILE TO
LOAD THAT
HEAVY
WEAPON
WITH HER
WOMAN'S
STRENGTH!

I'VE GOT
TO PIN HER
DOWN
BEFORE SHE
CAN PREPARE
THE NEXT
SHOT!



IS SHE
GIVING UP AND
SWITCHING
TO CLOSE
COMBAT?

SHE'S
NOT RE-
LOADING...



?!



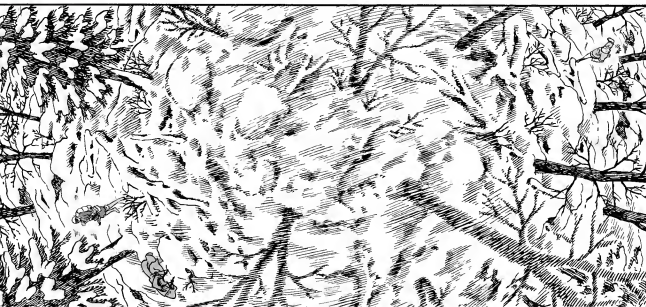
I'LL JUST
HAVE TO
OVER-
WHELM
HER WITH
SPEED!!

A
TRAP?!

NO!!



EINAR!
OVER
THERE!



I'VE GOT
A GRASP
OF THE
PROPER
DISTANCE.

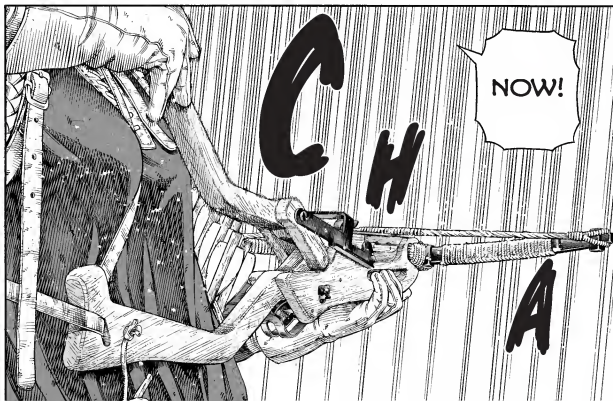


I'VE SEEN
ENOUGH OF
HIS SPEED
AND
INSTINCTS
OVER THE
LAST FEW
MINUTES OF
ACTION.



A BIT
FUR-
THER...

RIGHT
UNTIL...



NOW!

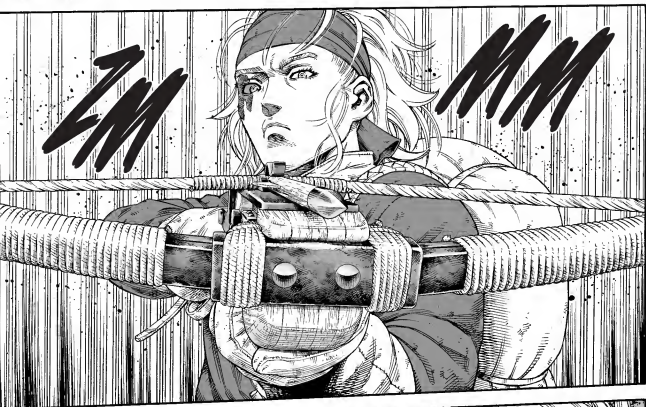
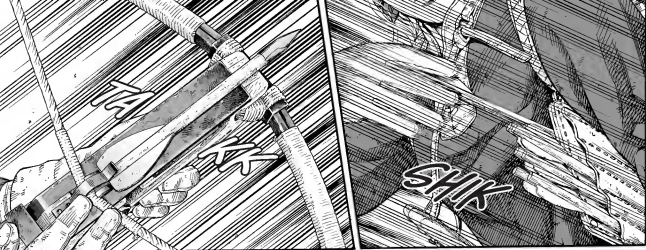
C

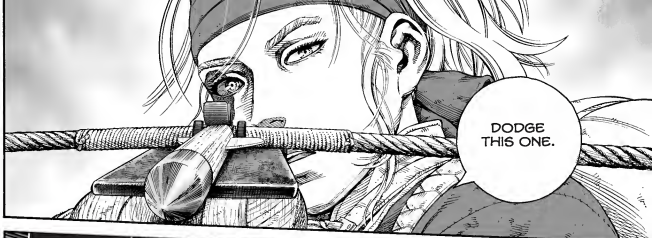
H

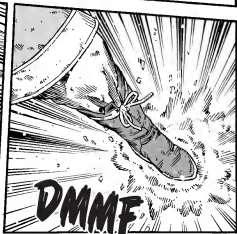
A







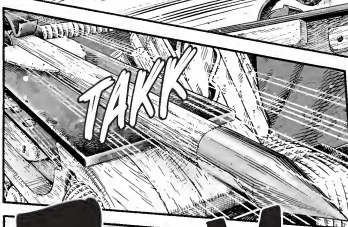




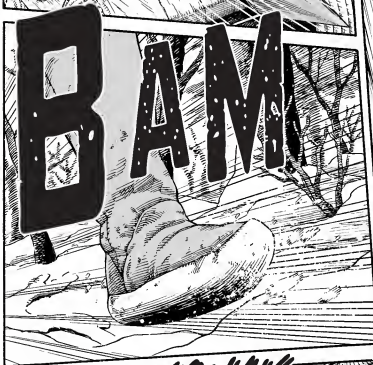
BAM



TAKK



BAM

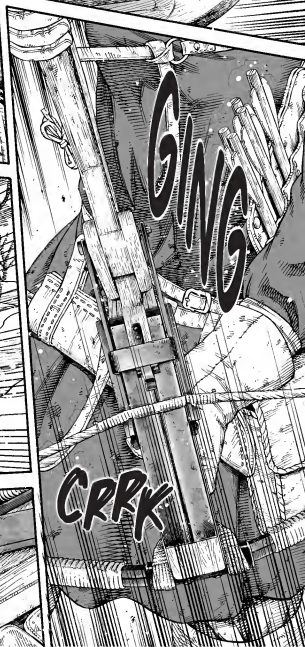


KCHAK



GING

CRRK





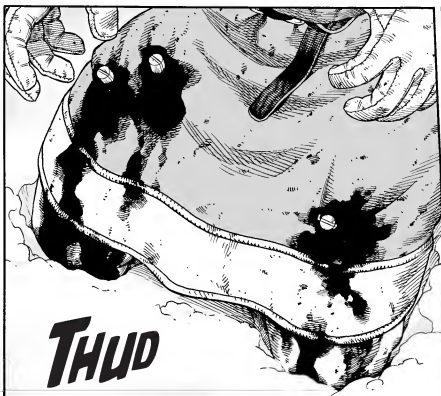
BAM

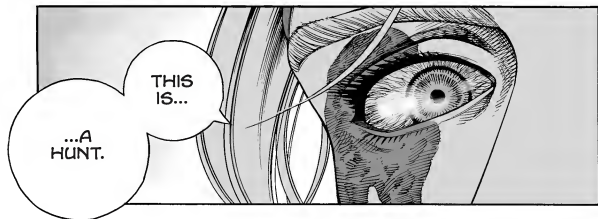
TAK

KCHK

ZM MF

GRIK







IF YOU
WANT TO
HATE ANY-
THING, HATE
YOUR OWN
WEAKNESS.

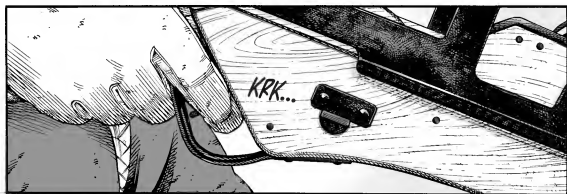
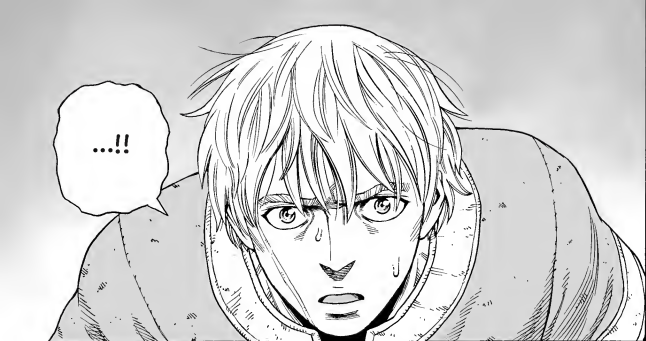
THE
STRONG
HUNT THE
WEAK. IT'S
A FACT OF
LIFE.



IT'S JUST
AS SIMPLE
AS THAT.

I AM THE
HUNTER...

...AND YOU
ARE THE
HUNTED.

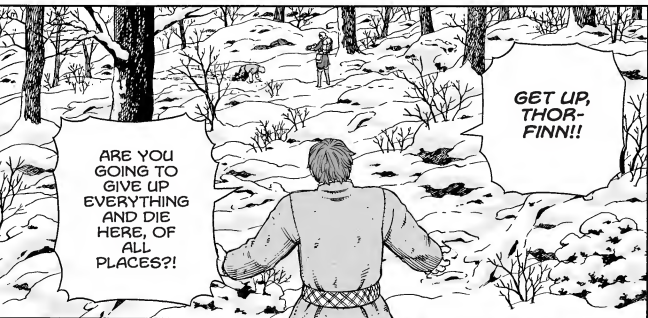






CAN YOU
MOVE?!

DID SHE
GET YOUR
LEG, THOR-
FINN?!



ARE YOU
GOING TO
GIVE UP
EVERYTHING
AND DIE
HERE, OF
ALL
PLACES?!

GET UP,
THOR-
FINN!!



I...

I CAN'T
MOVE...



HUFF
HUFF



MY
BODY...

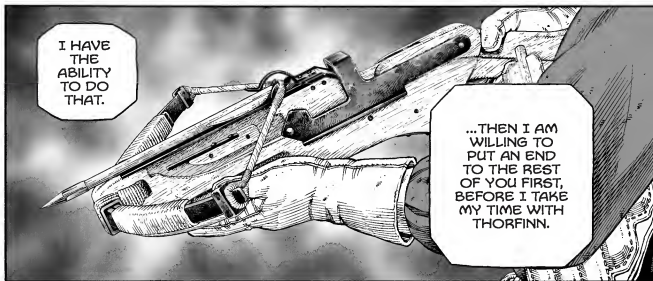
...WON'T...
MOVE...





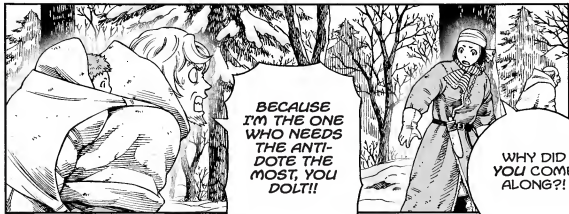
I DEMAND
THAT YOU
STAY PUT.

IF YOU
TRY TO
INTER-
FERE...



I HAVE
THE
ABILITY
TO DO
THAT.

...THEN I AM
WILLING TO
PUT AN END
TO THE REST
OF YOU FIRST,
BEFORE I TAKE
MY TIME WITH
THORFINN.



BECAUSE
I'M THE ONE
WHO NEEDS
THE ANTI-
DOTE THE
MOST, YOU
DOLT!!

WHY DID
YOU COME
ALONG?!





I'VE
NEVER SEEN
HIM WAKE
UP FEELING
PLEASED AND
REFRESHED.

IN HIS
DREAMS
EVERY NIGHT...

...HE IS
PLAGUED BY
THE GHOSTS
OF THOSE HE
HAS KILLED.



COME
NO
CLOSER.



YOU WILL
REGRET
KILLING A
PERSON.

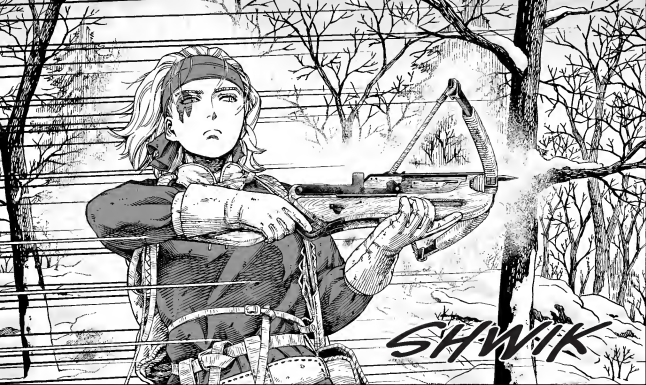
SHUK

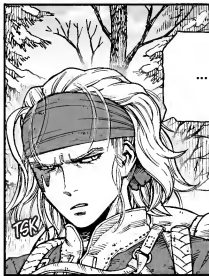
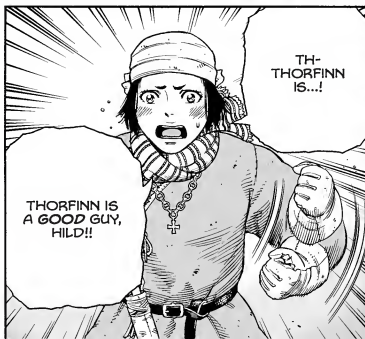
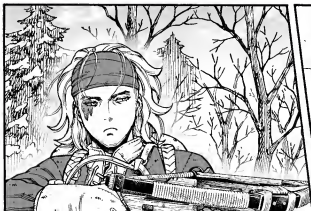
SHK

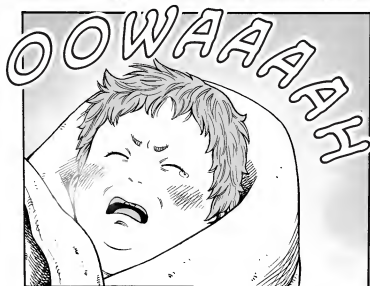
IT HAS
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
HATRED AND
VENGEANCE.



STOP,
EINAR!!
KEEP
YOUR
DISTANCE!!









THERE...
SEE?

KARLI
DOESN'T
WANT YOU
TO KILL
HIM.



PLEASE
DON'T KILL
THORFINN,
HILD.

PLEASE...

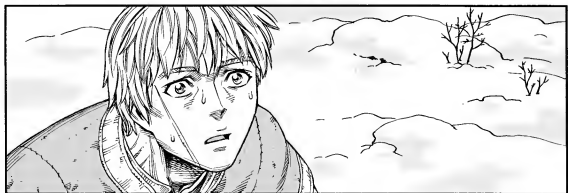


MAKE
THE
BABE
STOP
CRYING.



KILLING
THORFINN
WON'T
MAKE YOUR
FAMILY
COME
BACK!

HILD!



HGWAAAAAH

HE
WON'T
STOP
UNTIL HE
GETS THE
ANTI-
DOTE!!

H-HE'S
CRYING
BECAUSE
THE
POISON
IS START-
ING TO
ANGUISH
HIM!



IT FELL
INTO THE
SNOW!!

HEY,
WHY'D
YOU
CHUCK IT
ALL THE
WAY OVER
THERE,
YOU
IDIOT?!



DON'T
JOKE
WITH
ME...

MWAA'AAHH



DO YOU
REALLY THINK
SAYING, "I'VE
CHANGED MY
WAYS," IS
GOING TO
GET YOU
OUT OF
TROUBLE?!

IF WE
COULD
ERASE
OUR PASTS
WITH SUCH
A SIMPLE
LITTLE
STEP...

...THEN
THE
WICKED
WOULD
RULE THE
ENTIRE
WORLD!!



HOW
AM I TO
AVENGE
THE LOSS
OF MY
FAMILY?!

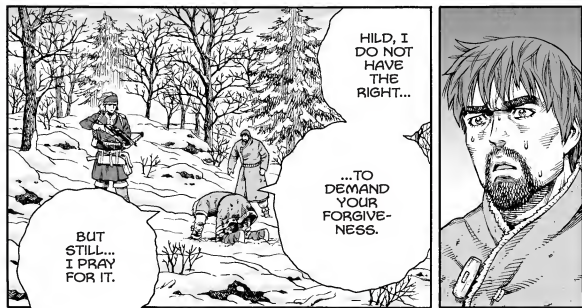
WHERE
IS MY
ANGER
TO GO?!



MAKE
MY
FAMILY
COME
TO LIFE,
RIGHT
NOW!

IF YOU
CANNOT
DO
THAT...

...THEN
THERE IS
NO WAY TO
ANSWER
FOR YOUR
CRIMES,
SHORT OF
DEATH!!





**GIVE ME
TIME TO
LIVE SO
THAT
I MAY
ATONE!!**

**PLEASE,
GIVE ME
TIME!!**



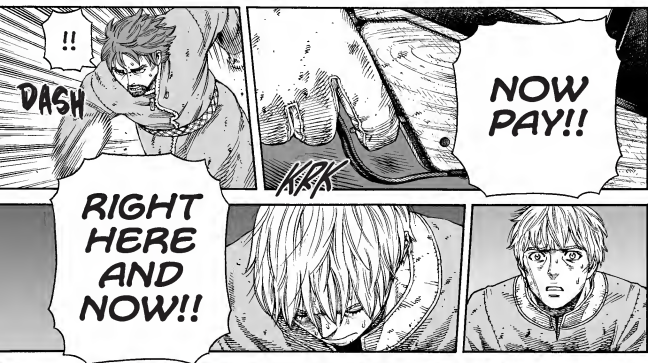
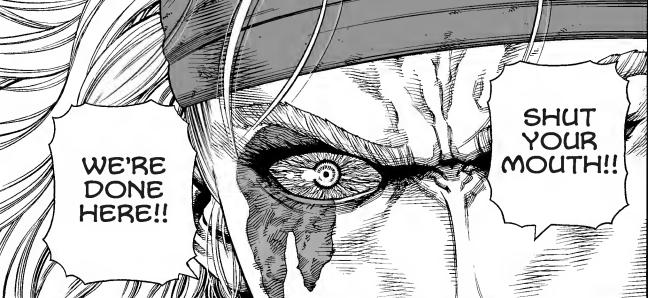
**SILENCE.
NO MORE
TALKING.**

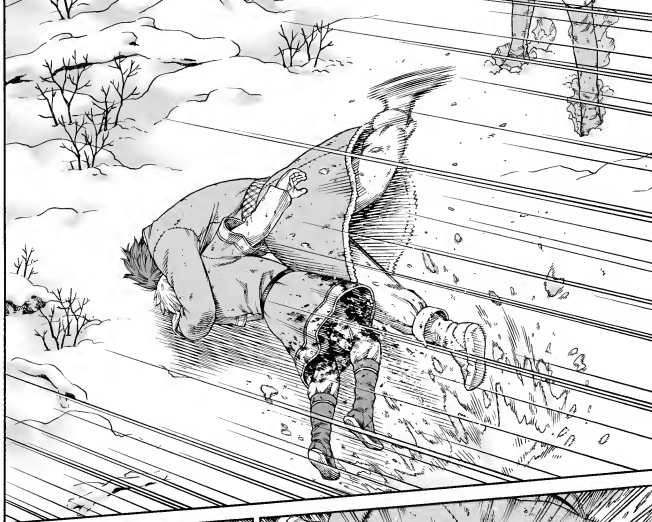


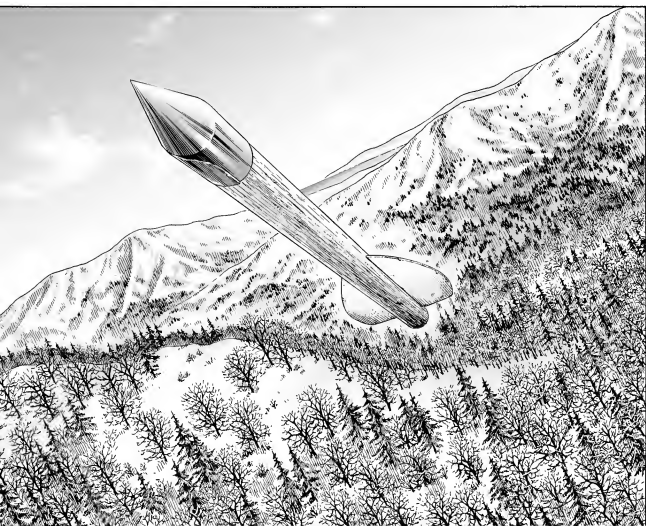
**PLEASE!
I ONLY
NEED
A FEW
YEARS!!**

**ONCE
I HAVE
ATONED,
THEN I WILL
RETURN!**

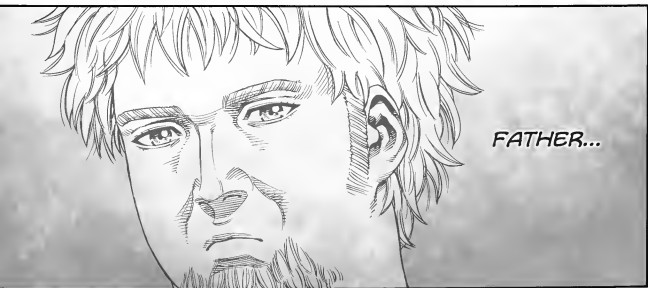
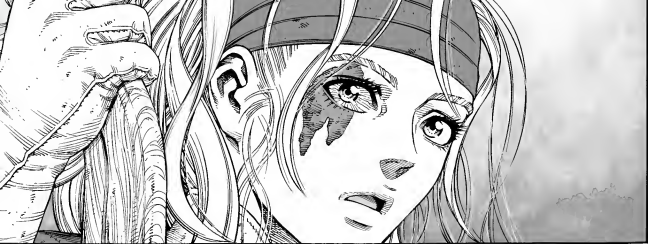
**I WILL
COME
BACK TO
YOU, SO
THAT YOU
MAY KILL
ME!**



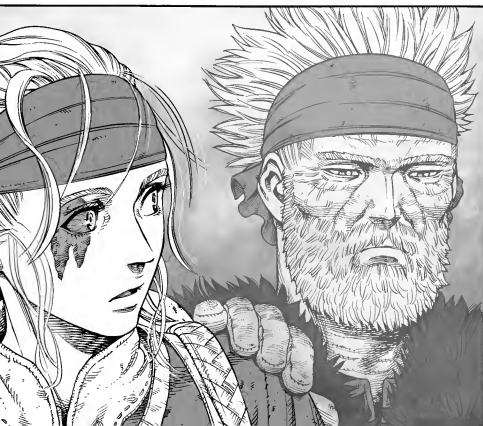


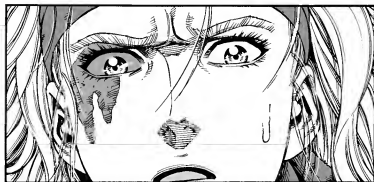
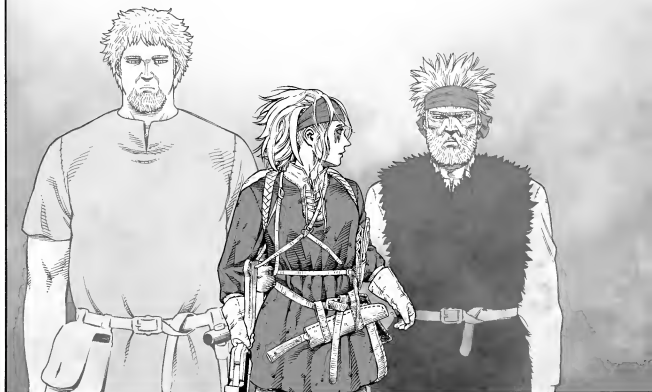






FATHER...

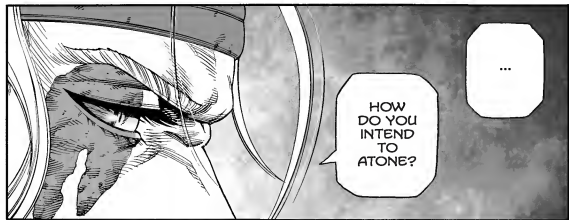




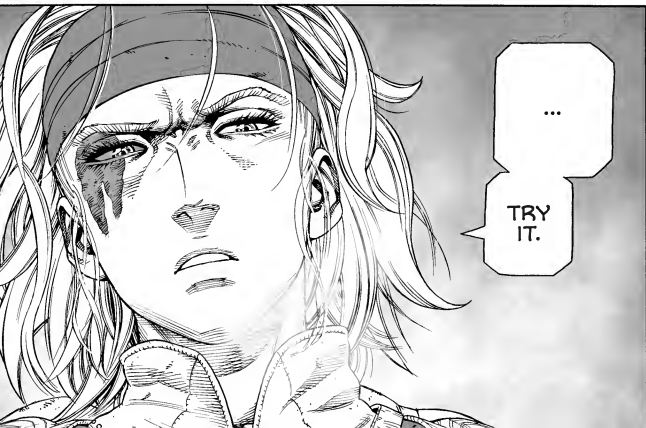
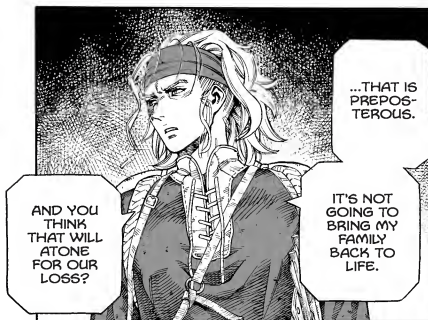
...WHO
COMMITTED
THE MOST
UNFORGIV-
ABLE OF
SINS...?

THIS
MAN...

ARE YOU
TELLING ME
TO FORGIVE
HIM?





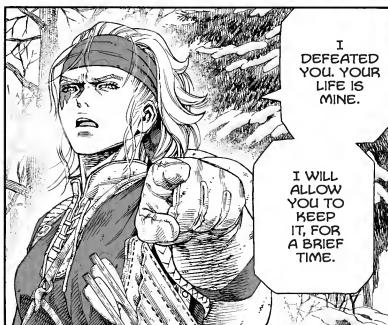




...THEN
DO IT.

IF THIS
ANGER
AND
HATRED...

...ARE
GOING TO
BE EASED
BY THIS
LAND OF
PEACE
YOU PRO-
POSE...



I
DEFEATED
YOU. YOUR
LIFE IS
MINE.

I WILL
ALLOW
YOU TO
KEEP
IT, FOR
A BRIEF
TIME.





...I WILL
PLACE A
CROSS-
BOW BOLT
IN YOUR
SKULL!
UNDER-
STOOD?!

FROM
TODAY
ONWARD,
I AM
WATCH-
ING YOU.

THE
MOMENT
I FEEL
THAT YOU
ARE
NOTHING
BUT
TALK...



I
PROMISE
...!!

TH...
THANK
YOU!



**THOR-
FINN!!**



I...
PROM...

FUMP



FATHER,
MASTER—
I CANNOT
FORGIVE
HIM.

BUT...I WILL
FOLLOW YOUR
INSTRUCTIONS
FOR NOW.



PHEWWW



THORFINN'S TRAVELS



CALM FJORD

A land south of Bergen where Hild grew up with her father, Hrafnkell. Eight years ago, Thorfinn raided this place with Askeladd's band and killed Hrafnkell. Hild fell down a canyon and survived the attack.



HILD



HRAFNKELL



Greenland

Arctic Circle

Iceland

Sea of Norway

Faroes

Shetland

Bergen

Jelling

North Sea

Denmark

York

England

London

France

Atlantic Ocean



SOUTH OF BERGEN

Thorfinn's band stops here on the way through Europe on their trading trip from Iceland to far-off Greece. A bear attacked Thorfinn as soon as they disembarked, and it was the hunter named Hild who saved them.



THORFINN



EINAR

BUG-EYED
THORFINN

LEIF



GUDRID



KARLI



DOG

I love the children's book series, *Vicke Viking*. In them, there's a circular saw that cuts lumber using the power of a water wheel, invented by the young Vicke, the protagonist. That story came in very handy for this volume. Swedish author Runer Jonsson's *Vicke Viking* was turned into a hit animated show in Japan, which many of my countrymen would recognize. It tells the story of Vicke, a Viking-era boy, who is rather timid, despite being the only son of the mighty Chief Halvar. Vicke loves peace and detests violence, and is very clever, often devising new ideas and inventions to get people out of trouble. Whenever he makes a new discovery, Vicke says, "Truly important discoveries should never be kept to oneself. Nothing good will come of hiding it. And if you share your knowledge with others, they will do the same to you. Things will be better for everyone!"

What a sharp kid! He's always ready to help out anyone, even foes of his father, Halvar. It's Vicke's most wonderful quality. I love the simple and pure-hearted vision of a protagonist, and of humanity, that exists throughout the *Vicke Viking* series. It makes me wish real-life could be that way. There's no need to assume that a Viking must bravely sail and pillage to be a Viking. Real, just truths do not always align with cultural assumptions. I try never to forget that.

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**

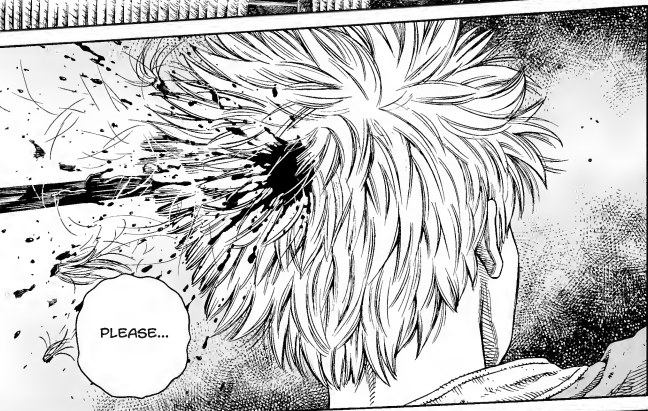
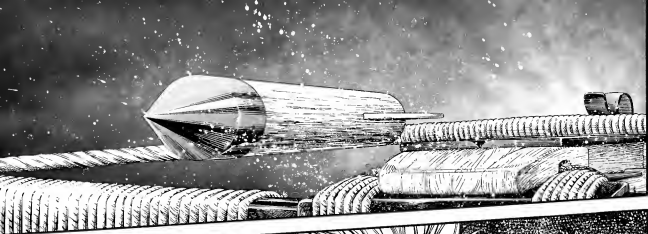


**VINLAND
SAGA**

ヴァンランド・サガ

WINLAND SAGA





PLEASE...



**THOR-
FINN.**

PLEASE,
JUST...

THOR-
FINN.

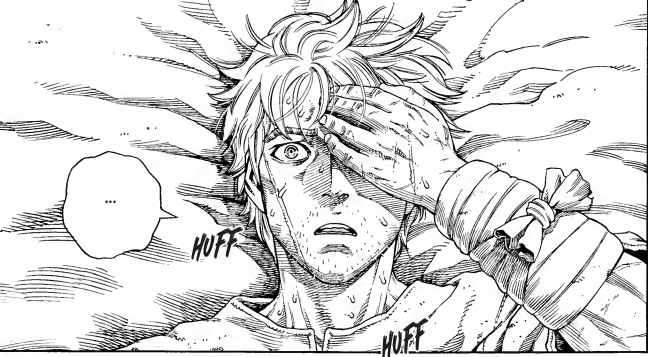
JUST
A FEW
YEARS'
TIME...

PLEASE,
GIVE ME
TIME...



CHAPTER 123: A BORROWED LIFE







BERGEN, IN
NORWAY.

WE'RE USING
THE ANNEX
OF A FRIEND
OF LEIF'S.



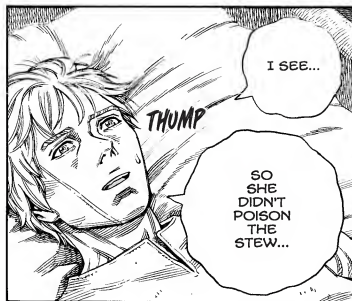
I
SEE...

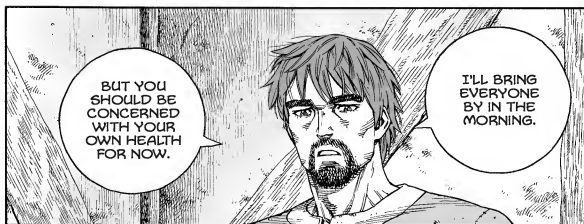


DON'T
MOVE!!
YOU'RE
NOT
FULLY
HEALED
YET!!

THE
ANTI-
DOTE?!
WERE
WE IN
TIME
?!

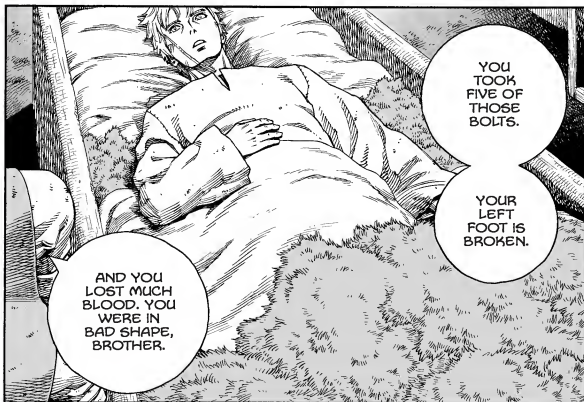
IS
EVER-
YONE
ALL
RIGHT
?!





BUT YOU
SHOULD BE
CONCERNED
WITH YOUR
OWN HEALTH
FOR NOW.

I'LL BRING
EVERYONE
BY IN THE
MORNING.



AND YOU
LOST MUCH
BLOOD. YOU
WERE IN
BAD SHAPE,
BROTHER.

YOU
TOOK FIVE OF
THOSE
BOLTS.

YOUR
LEFT
FOOT IS
BROKEN.



THAT MEANS
RECUPERAT-
ING HERE AT
LEAST UNTIL
SPRING.

IF YOU
WANT TO
WALK LIKE
YOU DID
BEFORE,
YOU NEED
ABSOLUTE
REST.





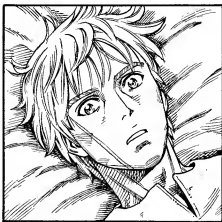
THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THOUGHT,
ISN'T IT?

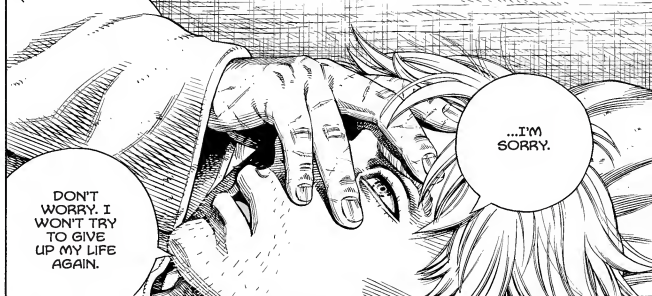
"OH,
WELL..
I'VE
EARNED
THIS."

"LET
HER
KILL
ME."



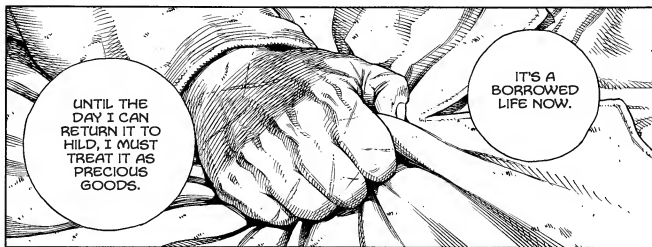
THAT'S
NOT
FAIR.





DON'T
WORRY. I
WON'T TRY
TO GIVE
UP MY LIFE
AGAIN.

...I'M
SORRY.



UNTIL THE
DAY I CAN
RETURN IT TO
HILD, I MUST
TREAT IT AS
PRECIOUS
GOODS.

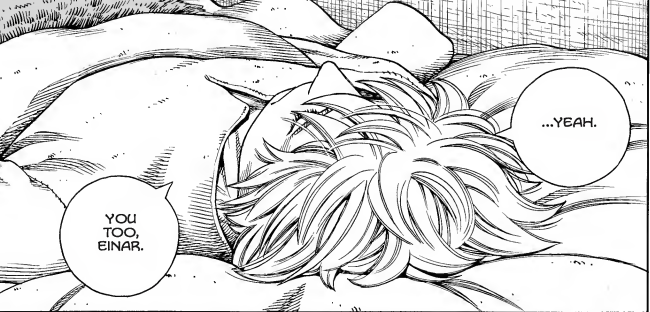
IT'S A
BORROWED
LIFE NOW.

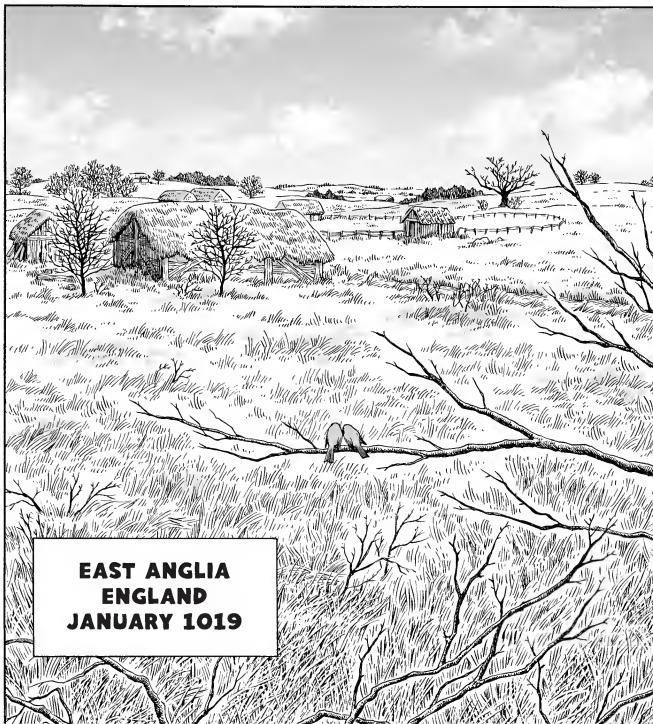
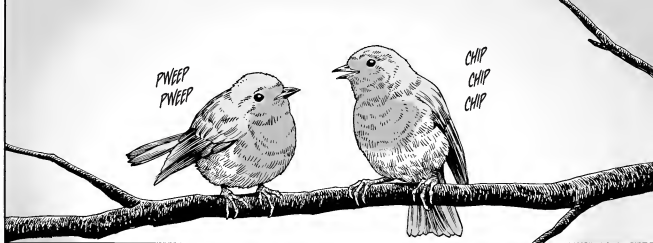


UNTIL WE
CREATE A
NATION OF
PEACE IN
VINLAND...

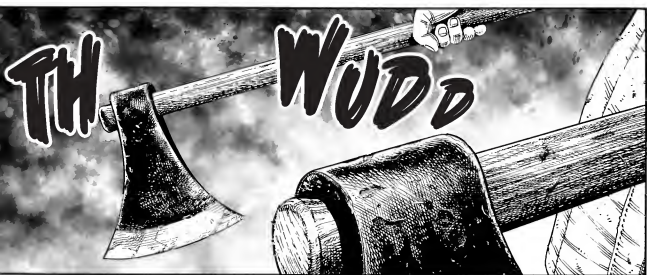
...YOU
ARE NOT
ALLOWED
TO DIE.

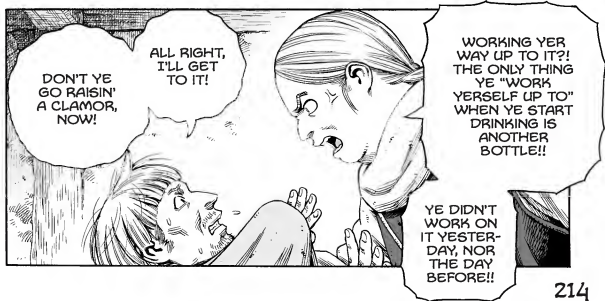
DON'T
FORGET WHAT
WE SWORE
BEFORE ARN-
HEID'S GRAVE,
BROTHER.





**EAST ANGLIA
ENGLAND
JANUARY 1019**







ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT.

JUST
CALM
YESELF,
WOMAN.

JUST
BECAUSE
HE WERE
FAIRER
AS A
LAD!

OH, I'LL
SHOW YE A
CLAMOR! MY
HEART ALIVE,
HOW DID I
END UP LIVIN'
WITH SUCH A
WORTHLESS
MAN?!

ZMMF...



NO
NEED?! WELL,
I SHOULD SAY
NOT, AS THERE
EN'T A SOUL
AROUND WHO
DOESN'T
KNOW YE'R A
DEADBEAT
HUSBAND!!

THERE'S
NAH NEED
TO GO ON
AT ALL
YER LUNGS
ABOUT IT.



HAVE YE
FORGOTTEN
WHAT HAP-
PENS WHEN
YE CARRY
ON SHOUT-
ING...

NO,
I EN'T
TALKIN'
ABOUT
THE
VILLAGE
FOLK!

...AND
WHO
SHOULD
SHOW UP
BUT...







LET
ME
IN.

I WANT
IN ON
THE
BATTLE.

I HEARD
YOU.

A
BATTLE.

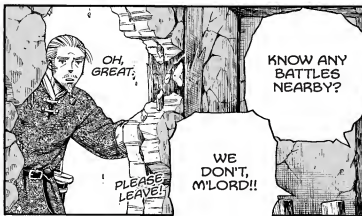
GRAAH...



I LOVE
YE,
HUBBY!!

JUST
PEACEFUL,
LOVIN'
FOLK!!

N-NO!
NO
BATTLE
HERE!!



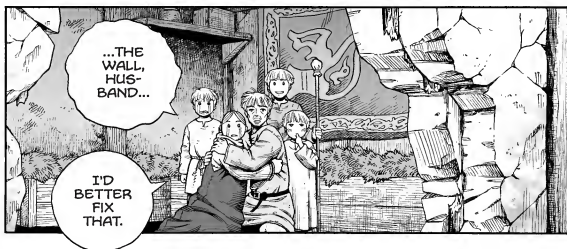
OH,
GREAT.

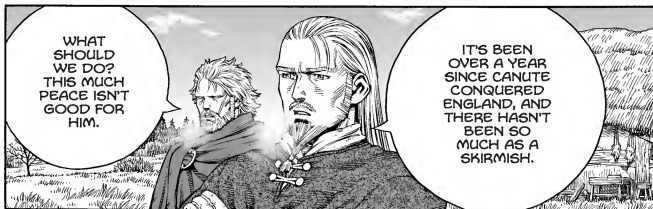
KNOW ANY
BATTLES
NEARBY?

PLEASE
LEAVE!!

WE
DON'T,
M'LORD!!









WHERE
IS IT?!
WHO
WITH?!
TELL ME
NOW!!

A
BATTLE!!
IT'S A
BATTLE,
I CAN
TELL!!

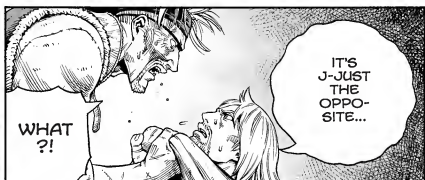
GUNK
GUNK
GUNK



BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS.

?!

DON'T
SAY IT!



WHAT
?!

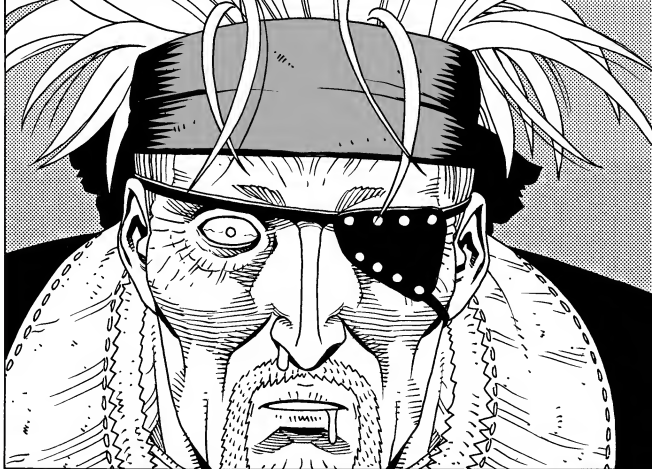
IT'S
J-JUST
THE
OPPO-
SITE...



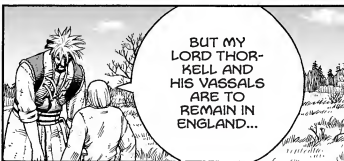
...ARE TO
DISPERSE
AND RETURN
TO DENMARK,
BY HIS ROYAL
DECREE.

KING
CANUTE
HAS
RETURNED
TO
ENGLAND.

ALL STA-
TIONARY
FORCES...



...AND
WORK TO
MAINTAIN
THE KING'S
PEACE
IN THE
REALM...



BUT MY
LORD THOR-
KELL AND
HIS VASSALS
ARE TO
REMAIN IN
ENGLAND...



DAMN IT
ALL! ANY
MORE
PEACE
COULD BE
FATAL!!

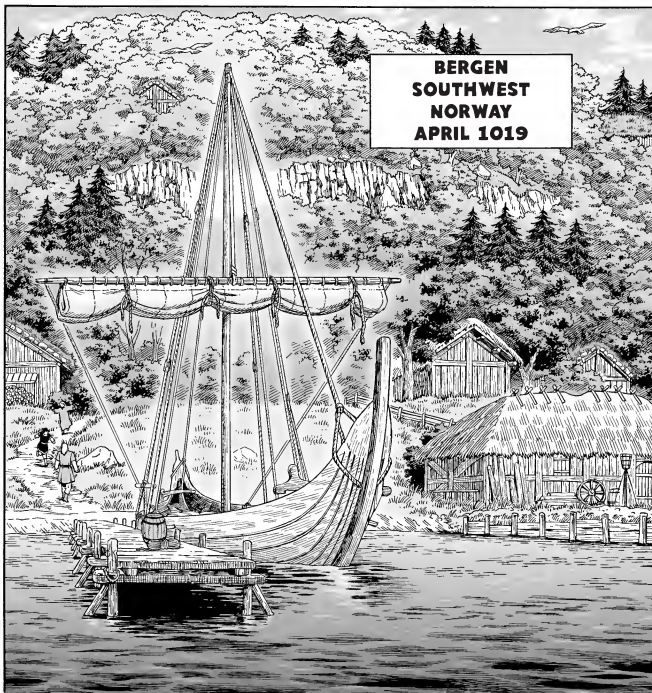
NO!
HE'S NOT
BREATH-
ING!

A
A
H

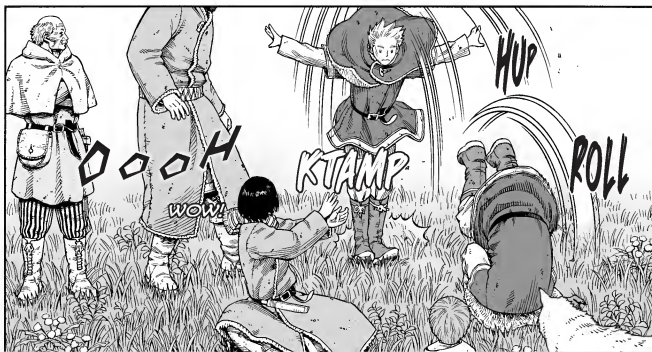
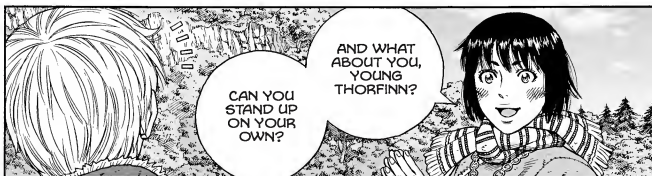
BOSS?!
BOSS!!

CHAPTER 124: DEPARTING NORWAY











YES,
ALTHOUGH
STILL ON
THE WEAK
SIDE.

SEEMS LIKE
YOUR FOOT
IS BACK TO
NORMAL.

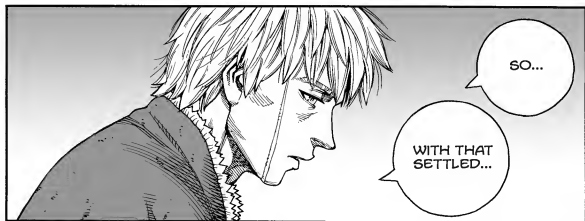
THE
STRENGTH
WILL RETURN
OVER OUR
TRAVELS, I'M
SURE.



...HMPH.

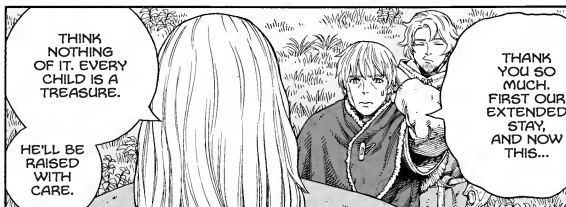
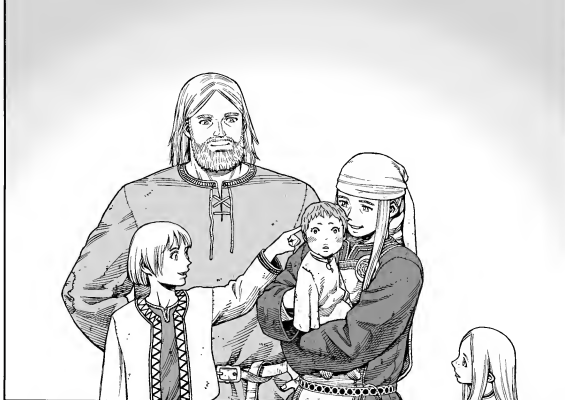


HA HA HA HA



SO...

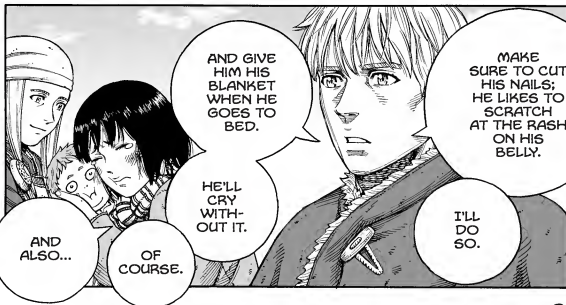
WITH THAT
SETTLED...



THINK
NOTHING
OF IT. EVERY
CHILD IS A
TREASURE.

HE'LL BE
RAISED
WITH
CARE.

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH.
FIRST OUR
EXTENDED
STAY,
AND NOW
THIS...



AND GIVE
HIM HIS
BLANKET
WHEN HE
GOES TO
BED.

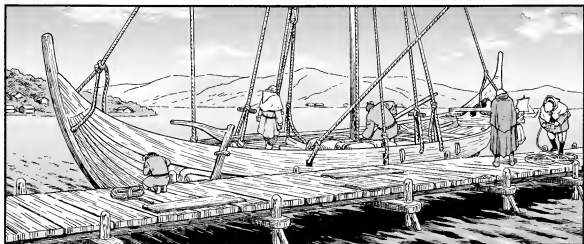
HE'LL
CRY
WITH-
OUT IT.

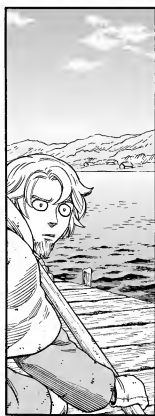
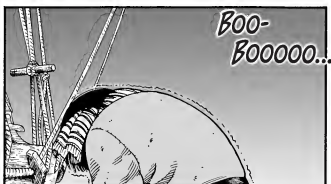
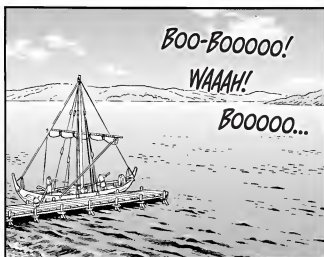
MAKE
SURE TO CUT
HIS NAILS;
HE LIKES TO
SCRATCH
AT THE RASH
ON HIS
BELLY.

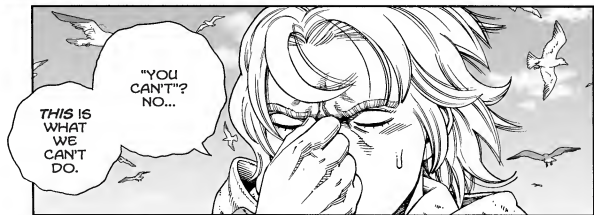
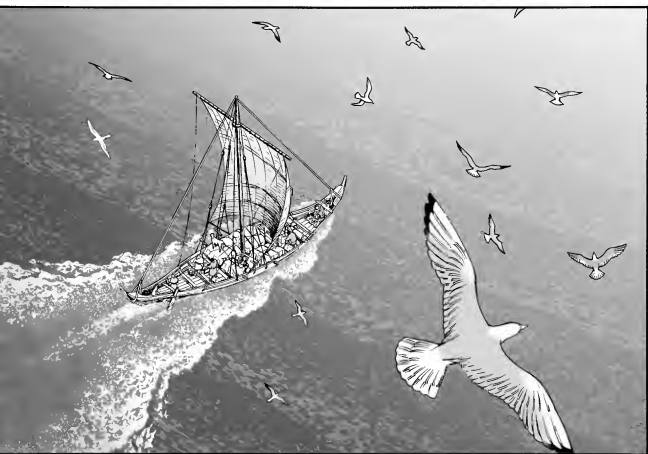
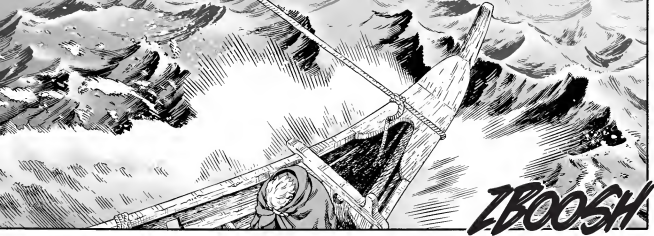
I'LL
DO
SO.

AND
ALSO...

OF
COURSE.









YOU'RE
SUCH A
GOOD
STAND-
ER!

HEE
HEE!

DON'T
YOU GET IT?
WE'RE ON A
HARROWING
LONG-DISTANCE
JOURNEY!

WE CAN'T
DO THIS! WE
CAN'T TAKE
KARLI ALONG.

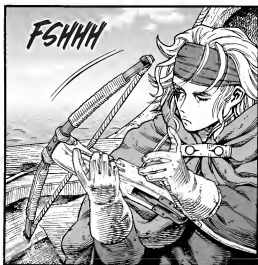


WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
A FOSTER
HOME ON
OUR NEXT
STOP.

THAT IS
CERTAIN-
LY NOT
"THAT."

BUT WE
BROUGHT
HIM ALONG,
AND THAT'S
THAT.

AND NO
COMPLAIN-
ING THIS
TIME.

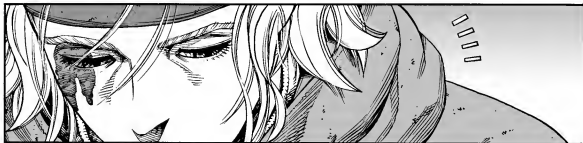
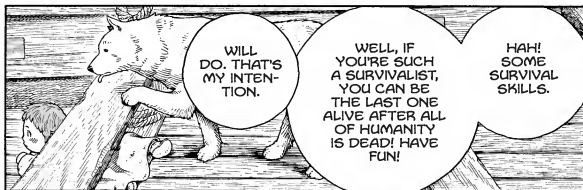
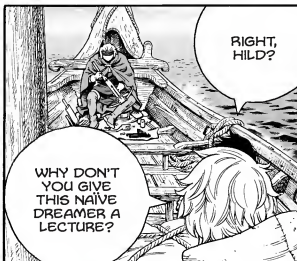
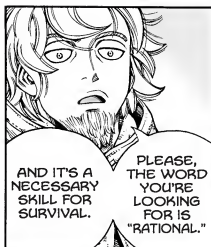


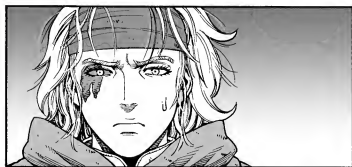
FSHHH



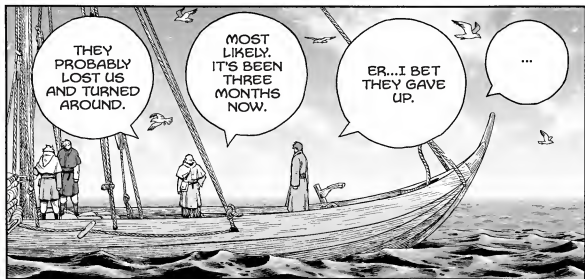
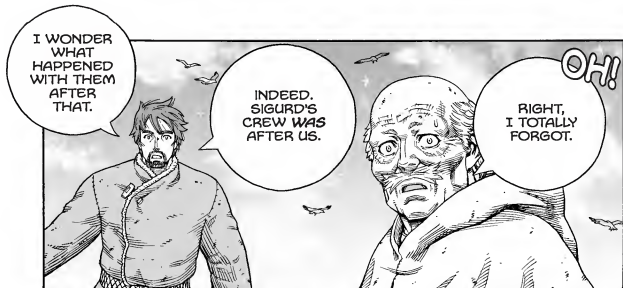
RIGHT,
HILD?

I'M
RIGHT,
AREN'T
I?









ROWW-
WWW!!

MEANWHILE,
IN THE
BALTIC SEA

BOOOM

AND
YOU CALL
YOUR-
SELVES
MEN?!

THEY'RE
GOING TO
CATCH
US, YOU
CLOWNS!!

BOOOM

SPLAASH

H

H



YOU
THINK
I DON'T
KNOW
THAT?!

WE
CAN'T WIN,
SIGGY!!
THOSE
ARE WAR-
SHIPS!!



YOU KNOW
WHAT'LL
HAPPEN IF
THEY CATCH
US, SO KEEP
ROWING!!

**THEY'RE
PIRATES!!**



THEY'RE
FLANKING
US!!

DEAR
GOD!!

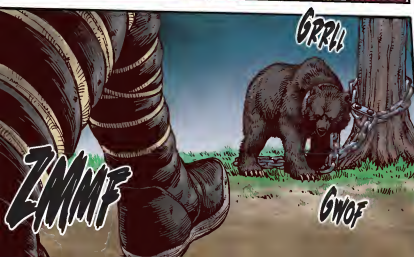
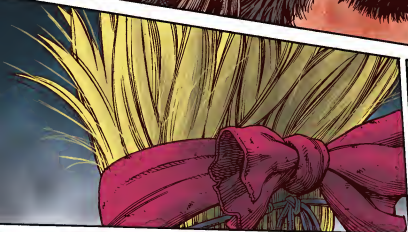
USE
YOUR
OWN
BRAIN!!

W-WE
DO?
WHAT'LL
HAPPEN
?!

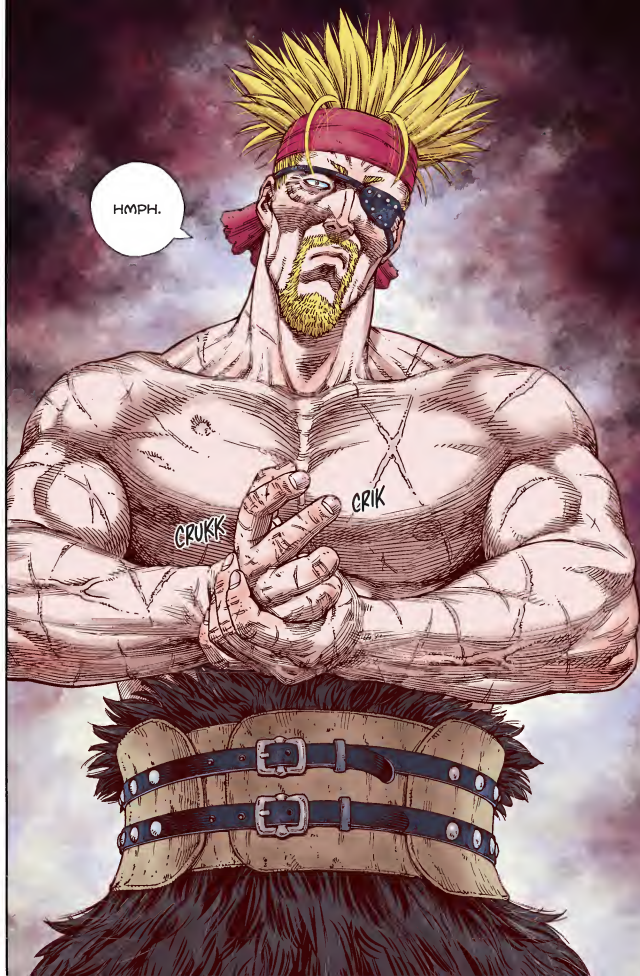
SPLASH



WINLAND SAGA





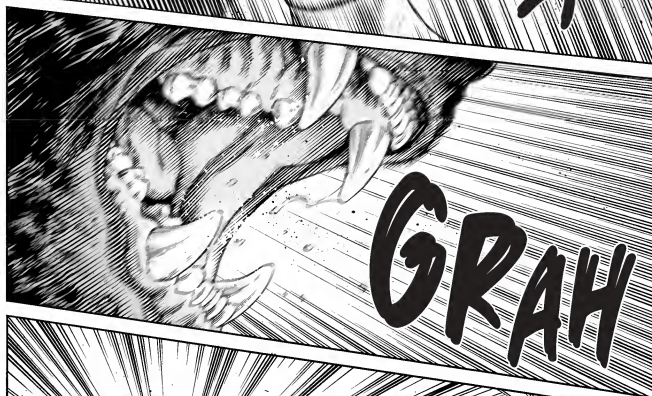


HMPH.

CRUKK

CRUK









WHOOAAA...

OH BOY...

AND
I THOUGHT
WE'D
ACTUALLY
GET A GOOD
FIGHT THIS
TIME...

MAN,
THAT
WAS
QUICK...

THIS OVER-
GROWN
BADGER
ISN'T EVEN
WORTH
CALLING A
DISTRAC-
TION!!

DON'T YOU
IDIOTS EVER
LISTEN?! I
TOLD YOU
TO BRING
A BEAR
BIGGER
THAN ME!!

YOU SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
FIND BIGGER
BEARS HERE
THAN IN
ENGLAND!!

SHUT
UP. TRY
HARDER.

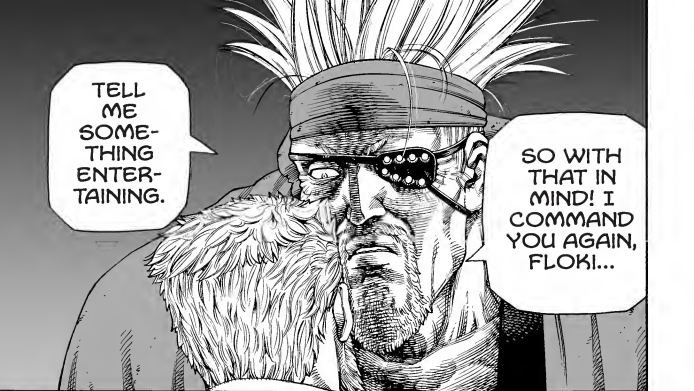
TREAT
YOUR
TOYS WITH
A BIT
MORE
RESPECT.

LOOK,
IT WAS
PRETTY
HARD TO
CATCH
THAT ONE,
BOSS.







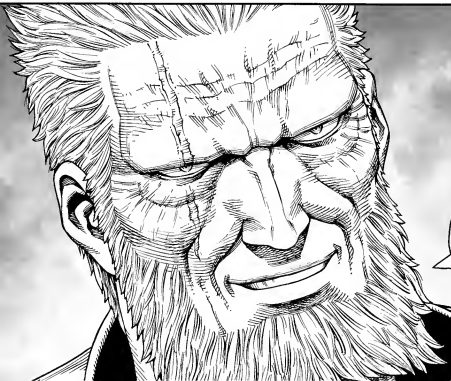


TELL
ME
SOME-
THING
ENTER-
TAINING.

SO WITH
THAT IN
MIND! I
COMMAND
YOU AGAIN,
FLOKI...

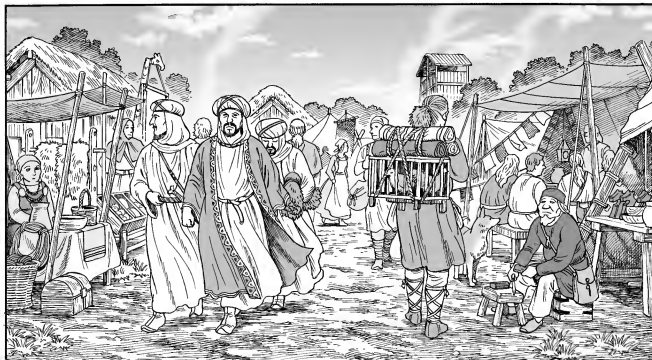
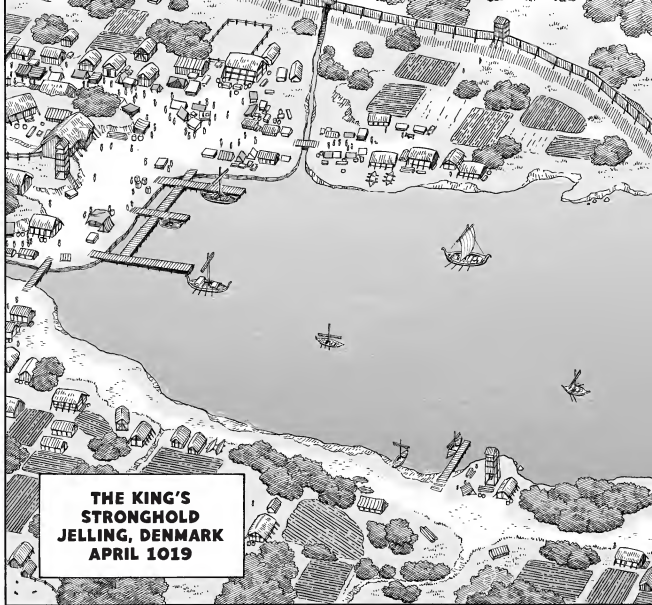


IF YOU
CAME ALL
THIS WAY
JUST TO
SAY HELLO,
I'LL USE
YOU FOR
MY NEXT
BEAR.

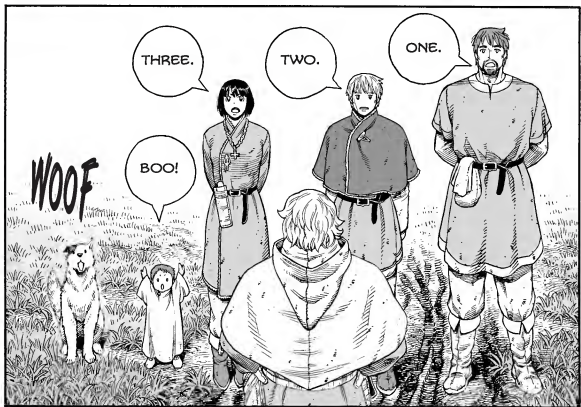


AS
A MATTER
OF FACT...I
DO HAVE
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.

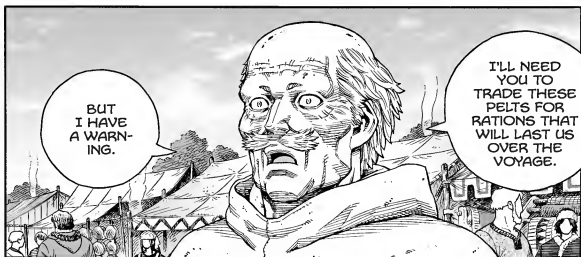
SOMETHING
VERY NICE
INDEED...











BUT
I HAVE
A WARN-
ING.

I'LL NEED
YOU TO
TRADE THESE
ELTS FOR
RATIONS THAT
WILL LAST US
OVER THE
VOYAGE.



ON THE
OTHER HAND,
DON'T TRY
TO GRAB
TOO MUCH,
YOURSELVES.



DO
NOT
SIMPLY
ACCEPT
THEIR
INITIAL
OFFERS.

YOUR
TRADING
PARTNERS
WILL SEEK
TO SQUEEZE
AS MUCH
PROFIT FROM
YOU AS THEY
CAN.

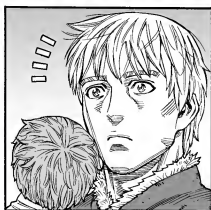
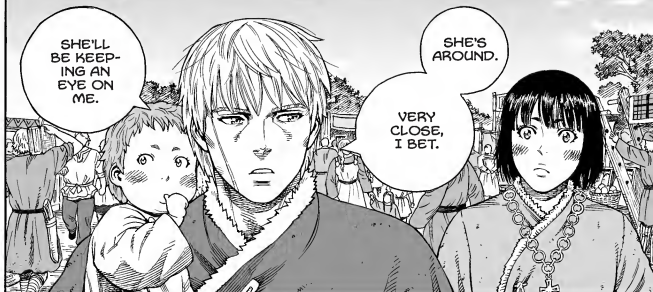


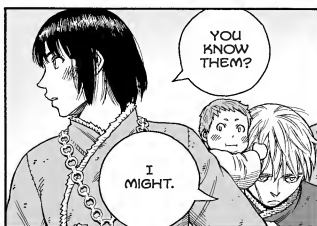
YES, SIR!

IF YOU RUIN
YOUR PARTNER,
THEY MAY NURSE
A GRUDGE, AND
THAT ENMITY
WILL COME BACK
AROUND TO
YOU.

THE IDEA IS
TO FIND THE
PROPER PRICE
THAT ENRICHES
BOTH THE BUYER
AND THE SELLER.
DO YOU UNDER-
STAND?









**MEANWHILE,
A PERSON
FROM THE
PRESENT**



EXACTLY.

WE'RE
ALL
LUCKY
TO BE
ALIVE.

CHEER
UP,
SIGGY.

...



SURREN-
DER WAS
THE RIGHT
CHOICE.

NO
WINNING
THAT
FIGHT.

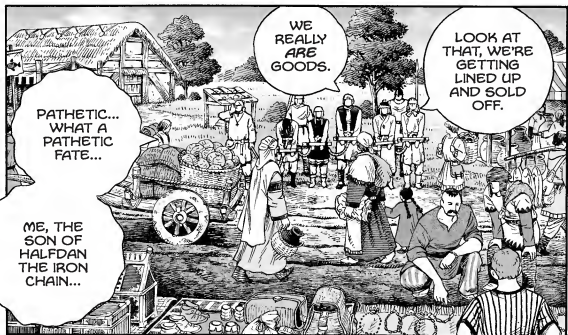
WHEW,
THOSE
PIRATES
WERE
TOUGH,
THOUGH.

THEY JUST
MAKE 'EM
BIGGER AND
MEANER ON
THE MAIN-
LAND.



I DON'T
EVEN HAVE...
THE ENERGY
TO TELL YOU
OFF ANY-
MORE.

EVEN
AS SLAVES,
YOU'LL NEVER
BE MORE THAN
LACKADAISICAL
LUMPS...



WE
REALLY
ARE
GOODS.

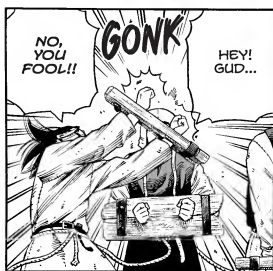
LOOK AT
THAT, WE'RE
GETTING
LINED UP
AND SOLD
OFF.

PATHETIC...
WHAT A
PATHETIC
FATE...

ME, THE
SON OF
HALFDAN
THE IRON
CHAIN...

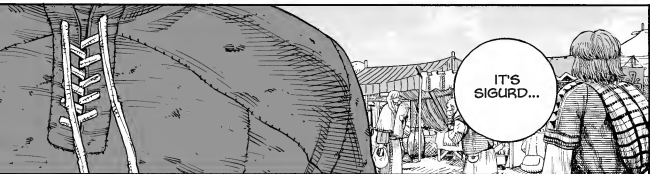






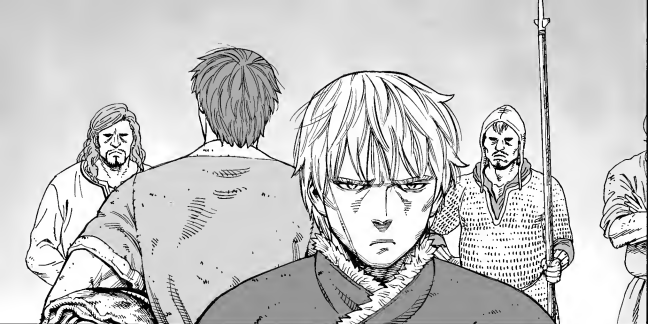


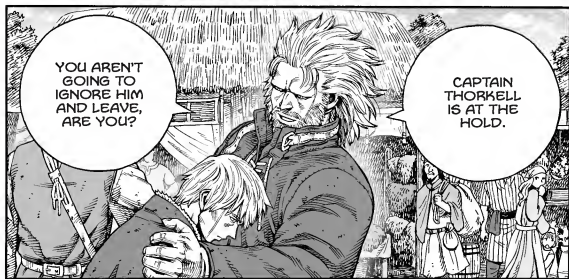


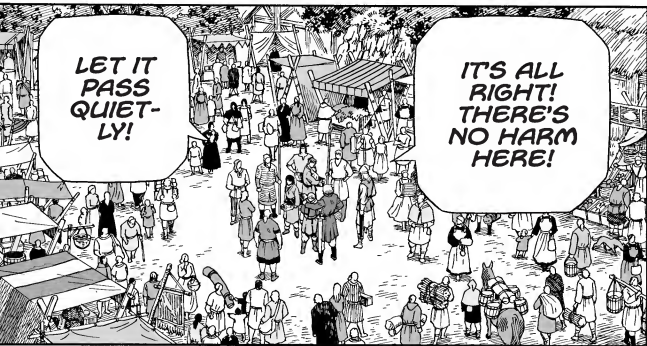


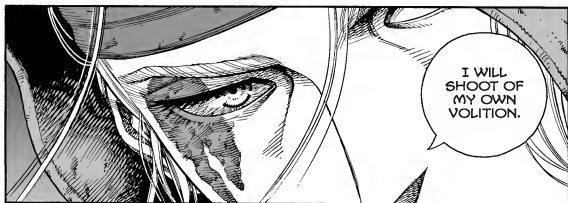
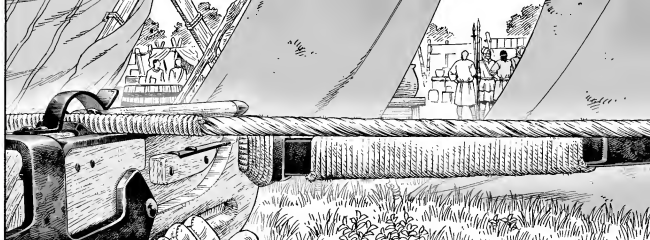
CHAPTER 126: WAR IN THE BALTIC (2)

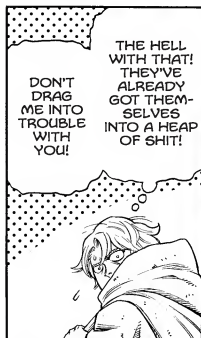
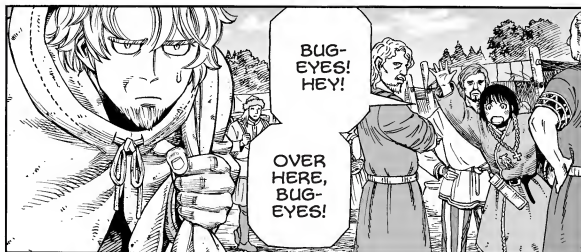
















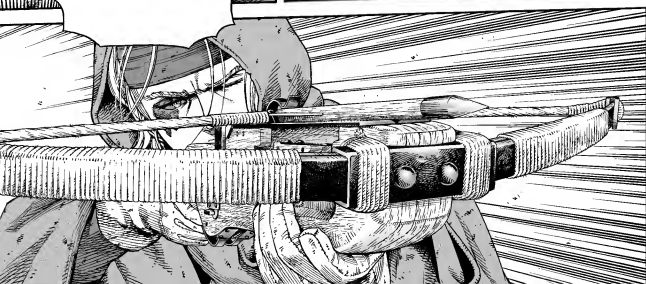
?!

NO, YOU
FOOL-
DON'T!!



IF YOU DIE,
WE WERE
WRONG.

IF YOU
EVADE,
YOU ARE
THORFINN
KARLSEFNI.





THAT
WAS A
CROSS-
BOW!!

FROM
OVER
THERE!!
GET
HIM!!

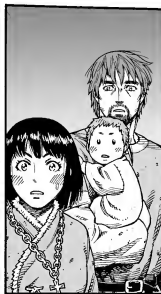


!!



**STOP!!
FINE, I
ADMIT
IT!!**

**I AM
THOR-
FINN
KARL-
SEFNI!!**





IF YOU
INTENDED TO
PROTECT MY
LIFE, THEN DO
NOT SHOOT
AGAIN!

KILLING TWO
OR THREE OF
THEM WILL
NOT FRIGHTEN
THEM—
JUST THE
OPPOSITE!

HILD!
THESE
ARE NO
ORDINARY
THUGS!



...



DON'T
BOTHER
YOURSELF
WITH MY
PEOPLE.



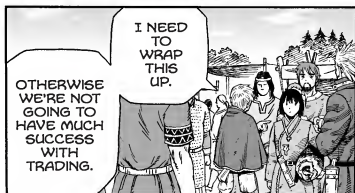
SHIT,
THAT
HURTS!

SOMEONE
GO AND
GET THAT
BOWMAN!



I'LL
MEET WITH
THORKELL.
SHOW ME
THE WAY.

ARE
YOU HERE
TO START A
FIGHT WITH
ME? I DON'T
THINK SO.



OTHERWISE
WE'RE NOT
GOING TO
HAVE MUCH
SUCCESS
WITH
TRADING.

I NEED
TO WRAP
THIS
UP.



...



JUST
WATCH
OVER
KARLI.

PLEASE
DON'T
INSIST ON
COMING
ALONG.

THE LESS
YOU HAVE TO
DO WITH THESE
PEOPLE, THE
BETTER.



I'LL
JOIN
YOU,
THOR-
FINN.





I HOPE
HE'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT...

GATHER
INFORMA-
TION ON
HIM.

YES,
SIR.



WHY
WOULDN'T
HE?

HE'S JUST
MEETING A
RELATIVE,
RIGHT?



I KEEP
MY DISTANCE
AND CHANGE
MY TACTICS
ACCORDING
TO THE SITU-
ATION. I'M THE
COMMANDO,
GET IT?

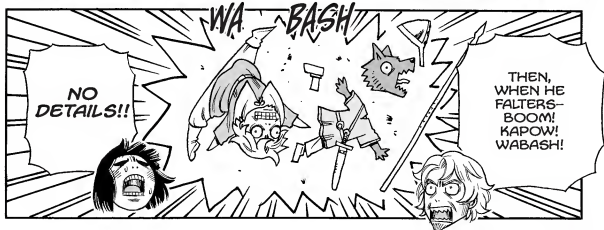
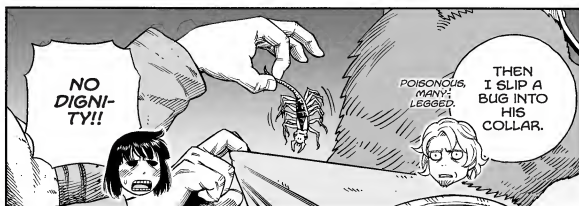
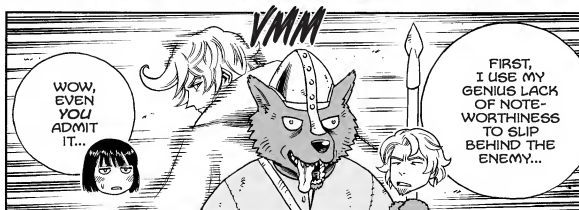
IF YOU
ALL GOT
NABBED
AND I WAS
WITH YOU,
WE'D BE
TOTALLY
LOST,
RIGHT?
SEE?



LISTEN, I'VE
LEARNED
NOT TO BE
SHOCKED
BY WHAT
YOU DO, BUT
THIS TIME IS
JUST...

WHAT AM I
GOING TO
DO IN THAT
SITUATION?!
ALL ON MY
OWN!

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT,
STUPID!
THINK
ABOUT
IT!!





HE CAN TRY
TO WALK AWAY
TO A BETTER
LIFE, BUT THE
REST OF THEM
WON'T LET
HIM...

WHAT
KIND OF
ACCUSA-
TION IS
THAT?!

HAVE YOU
HAD A FEW
ALREADY
TODAY?



REFORM-
ING YOUR-
SELF ISN'T
AS EASY AS
YOU THINK.

YOU CANNOT
ERASE YOUR
PAST, AFTER
ALL...

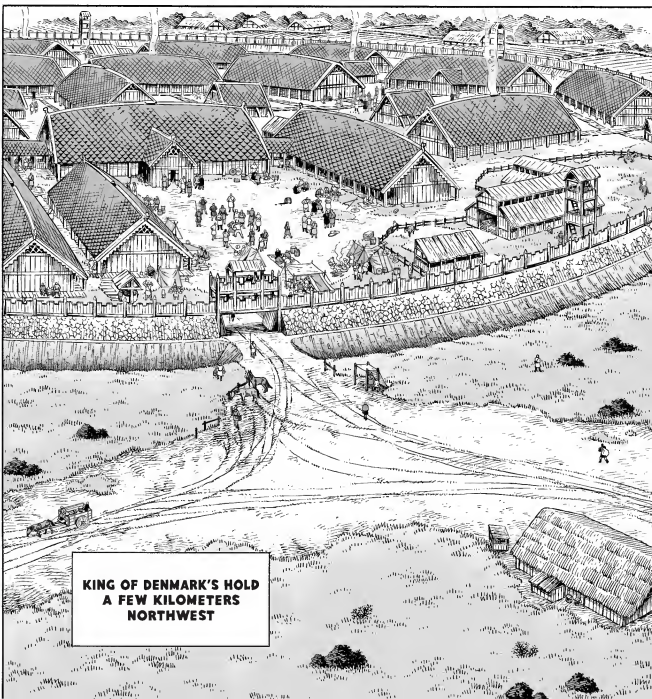


SORRY,
I JUST RE-
MEMBERED
ALL THE
THINGS I
NEED TO
BUY.

THEY
MENTIONED
A HOLD,
RIGHT?

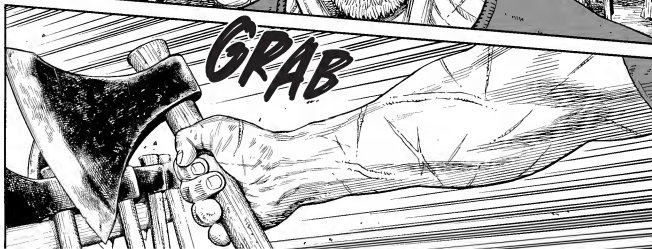
WE'LL GO
AND CHECK
IT OUT IF HE
TAKES TOO
LONG.

YOU
ARE REALLY
DEDICATED
TO YOUR WAY
OF LIFE!



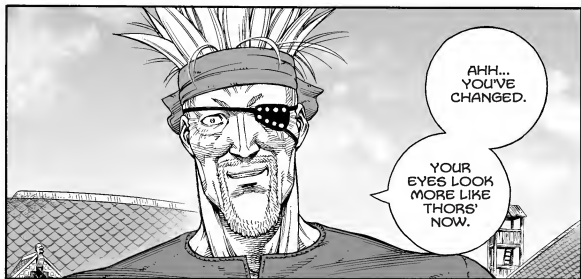
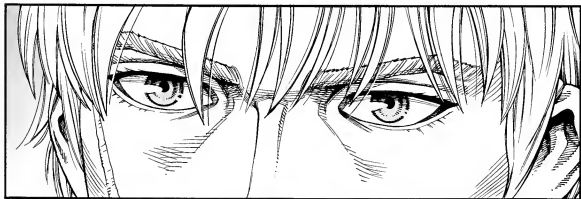
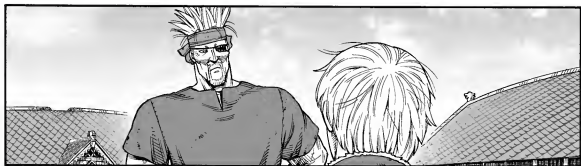
**KING OF DENMARK'S HOLD
A FEW KILOMETERS
NORTHWEST**

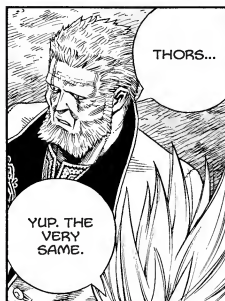






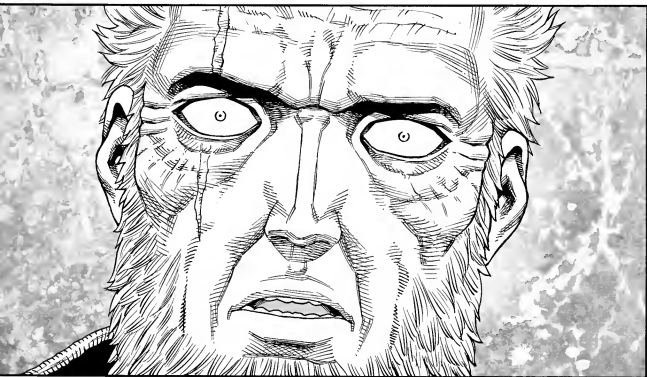
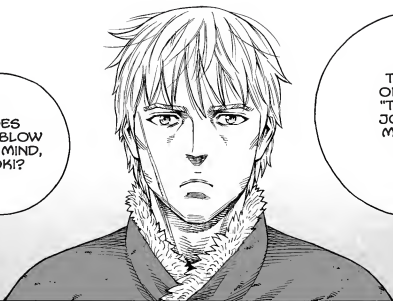


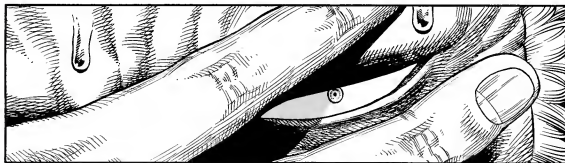




DOES
THAT BLOW
YOUR MIND,
FLOKI?

THE SON
OF THORS,
"TROLL OF
JOM," AND
MY NIECE,
HELGA.





THE
SON OF
THORS
...?!

THOR-
FINN...

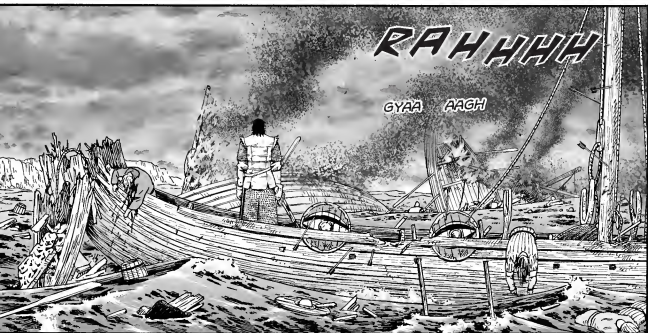




INLAND SAGA

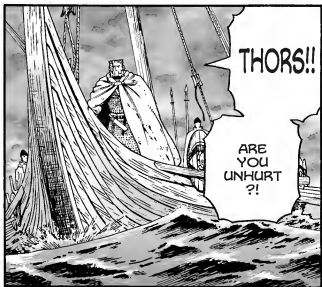
CHAPTER 127: WAR IN THE BALTIC (3)





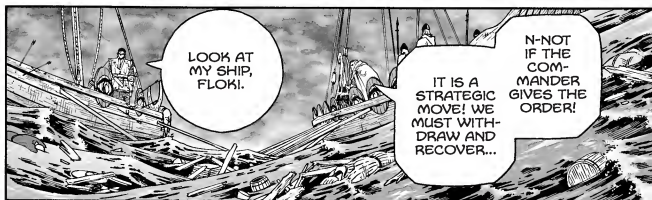
THE
TIDES
HAVE
TURNED
ENTIRELY!

THE
COMMANDER
HAS ISSUED
AN ORDER
TO RETREAT!
HURRY,
THORS!





I THOUGHT
RUNNING FROM
THE ENEMY
MERITED
EXECUTION.



LOOK AT
MY SHIP,
FLOKI!

IT IS A
STRATEGIC
MOVE! WE
MUST WITH-
DRAW AND
RECOVER...

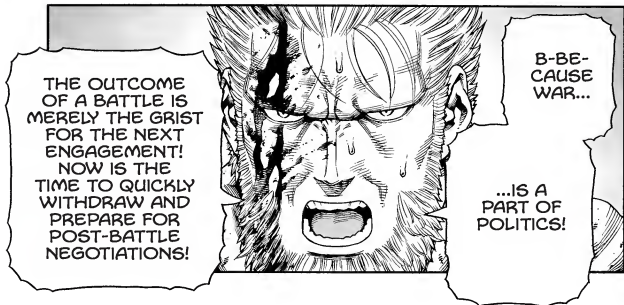
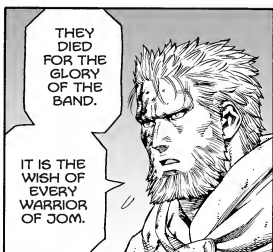
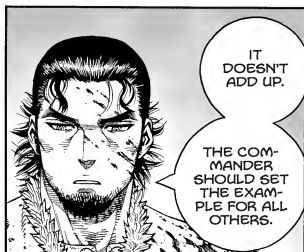
N-NOT
IF THE
COM-
MANDER
GIVES THE
ORDER!

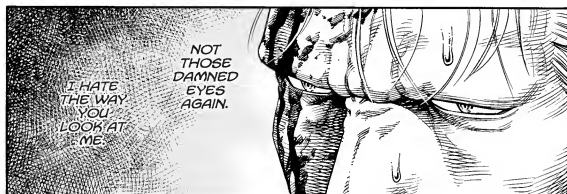
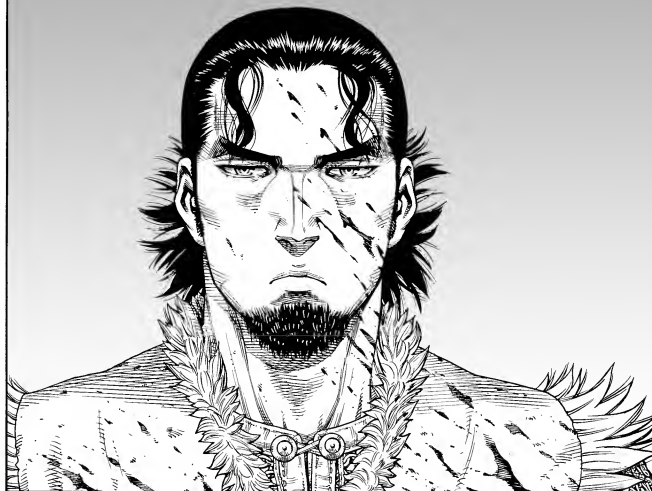


THEY
KNEW FULL
WELL THAT
VALHALLA
BECKONED
TO THEM.

IT IS A
MESS.

ALL MY MEN
DIED WITH THE
NAME OF ODIN
ON THEIR LIPS.





LIKE YOU'RE
LOOKING
AT A PITIFUL
BEGGAR.

WHEN IT'S
YOU WHO
ALWAYS
CAUSES
TROUBLE
BY GOING
ON ABOUT
THINGS THAT
MAKE NO
SENSE!

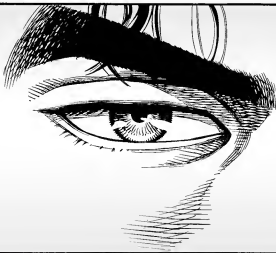
LIKE YOU'RE
LOOKING AT
AN IGNORANT
CHILD...

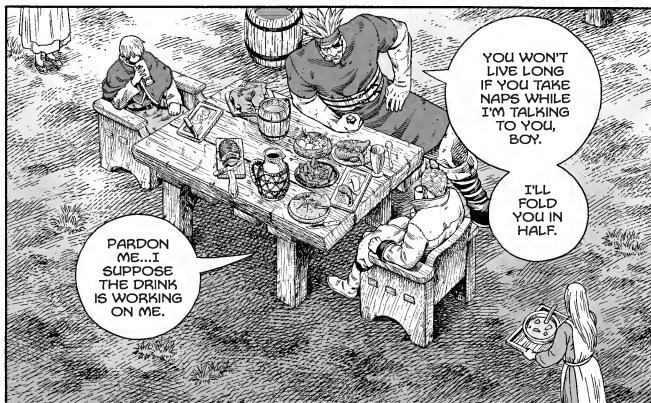


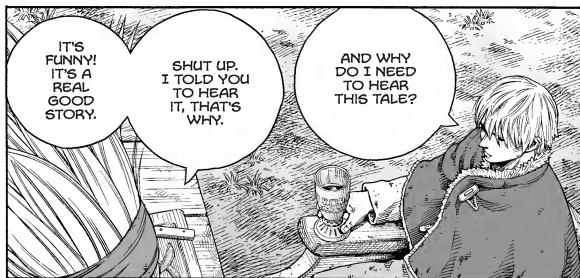
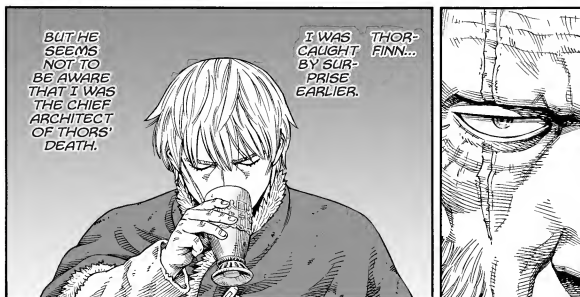
I DON'T
LIKE...

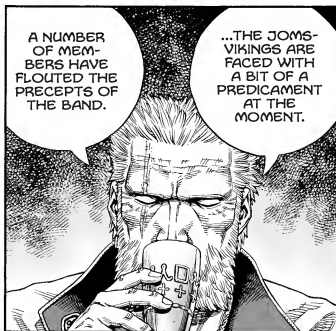
...THAT
LOOK OF
YOURS!

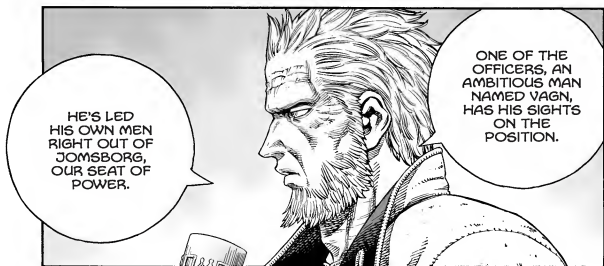
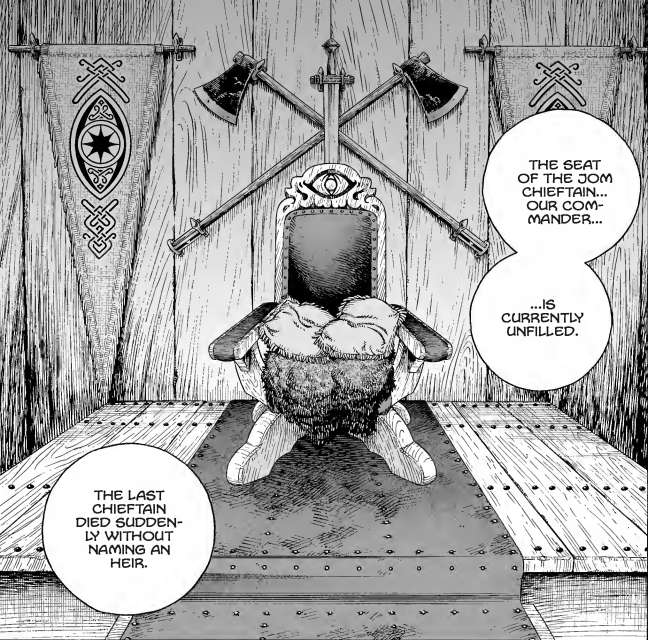
IT'S BEEN
THIS WAY
FROM THE
FIRST TIME
WE MET.

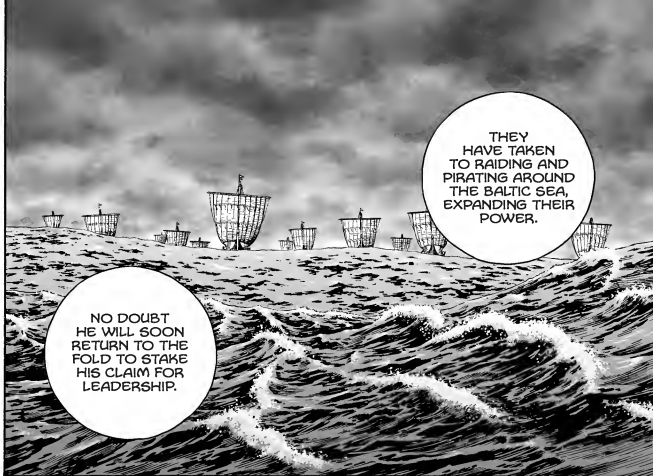












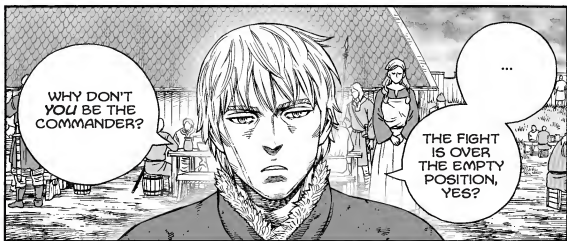
THEY
HAVE TAKEN
TO RAIDING AND
PIRATING AROUND
THE BALTIC SEA,
EXPANDING THEIR
POWER.

NO DOUBT
HE WILL SOON
RETURN TO THE
FOLD TO STAKE
HIS CLAIM FOR
LEADERSHIP.



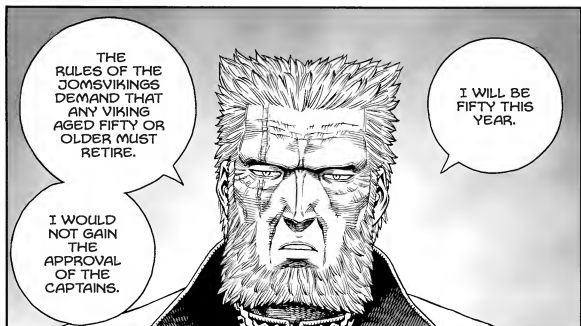
I'VE COME
HERE TO ASK
LORD THOR-
KELL FOR HIS
HELP IN THE
MATTER.

WE
MUST
STRIKE
BEFORE
THAT
HAPPENS.

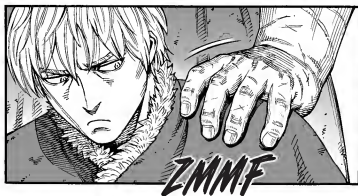


WHY DON'T
YOU BE THE
COMMANDER?

...
THE FIGHT
IS OVER
THE EMPTY
POSITION,
YES?





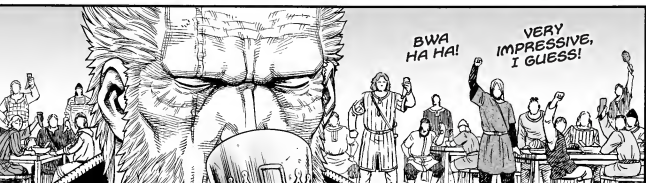


**HE
IS THE
RENOWNED
THORFINN
KARL-
SEFNI!!!**

**THE
GRANDSON
OF CHIEFTAIN
SIGVALD!
SON OF
THORS, THE
TROLL OF
JOM!**

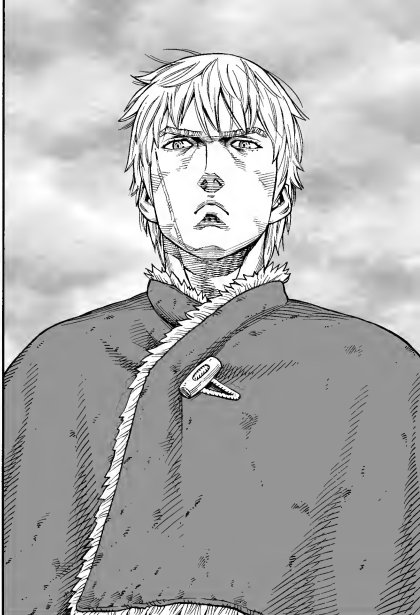
**DO YOU
REALIZE
WHO
THIS IS?!**











THE
RESEM-
BLANCE IS
THERE.

THE
EYES.

THOSE
DAMNABLE
EYES...





IN THE
SUCCESSION
OF THE
JOMS-
VIKINGS.

I HAVE
ABSOLUTE-
LY NO
INTEREST-
NONE AT
ALL!

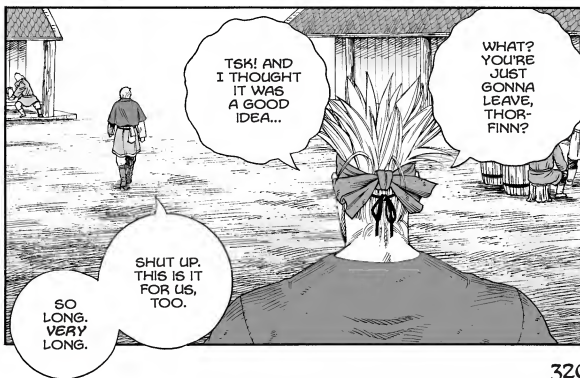
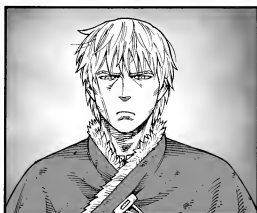
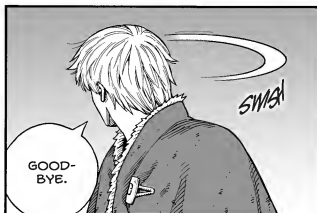
I WILL
BE
FRANK
WITH
YOU.

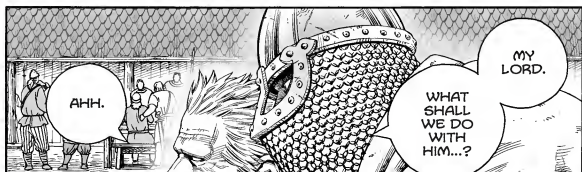


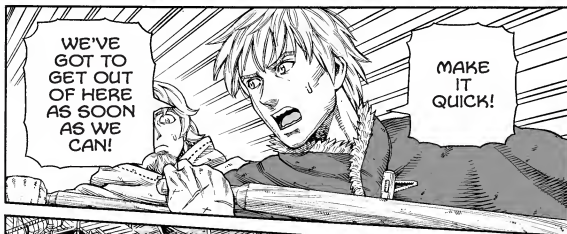
IF ANY-
THING, I'D
RATHER
NOT BE
INVOLVED.

I DOUBT
WE SHALL
EVER MEET
AGAIN.

I WILL NOT
BOTHER YOU;
IN RETURN,
PLEASE FOR-
GET ABOUT
MY EXIS-
TENCE.







WE'VE
GOT TO
GET OUT
OF HERE
AS SOON
AS WE
CAN!

MAKE
IT
QUICK!

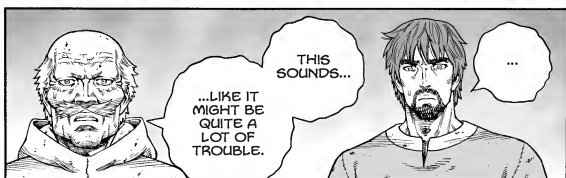


WHY?
WHAT'S
THE
HUGE
RUSH?

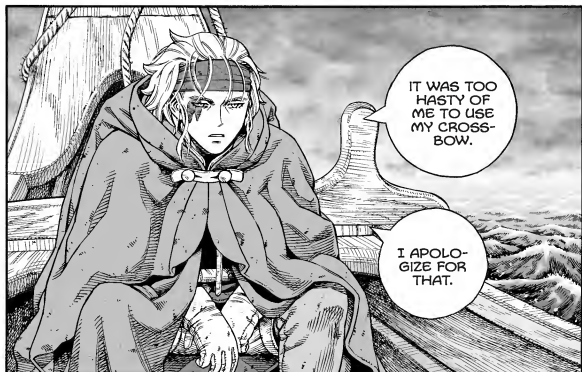
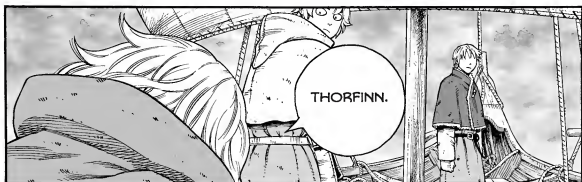
WE'RE
NOT DONE
GETTING
SUPPLIES.

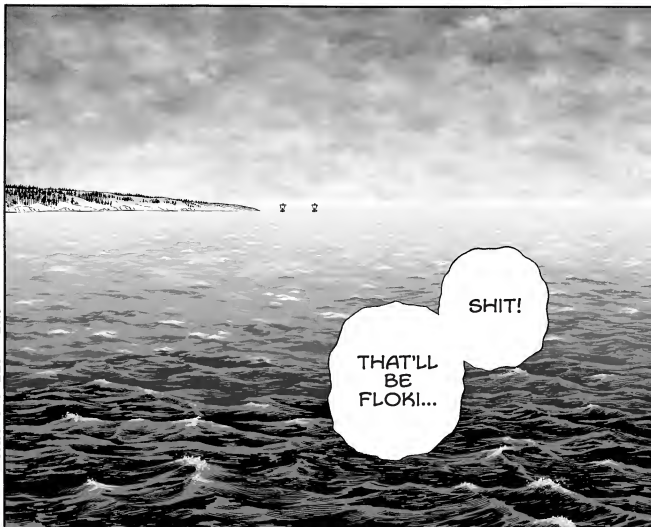
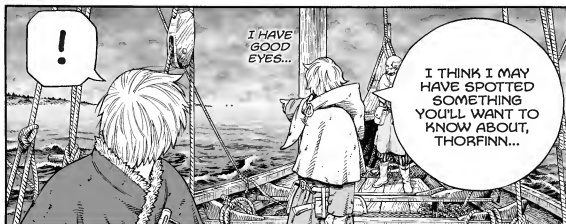
SORRY.
I'LL
EXPLAIN
ONCE
WE'RE
AWAY.

FSSHH









CHAPTER 128: WAR IN THE BALTIC (4)



TWO
SHIPS...

WHAT NOW,
THORFINN?





LET ME
OFF AT
THAT
CAPE.

THERE.
OVER
THERE.



...



?!

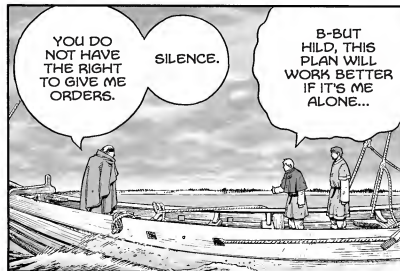
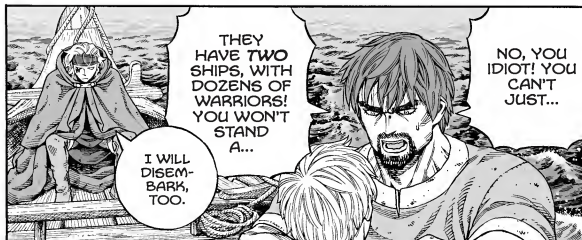
THORFINN,
WHAT ARE
YOU...



I AM
THE
ONLY
ONE
THEY
WANT.

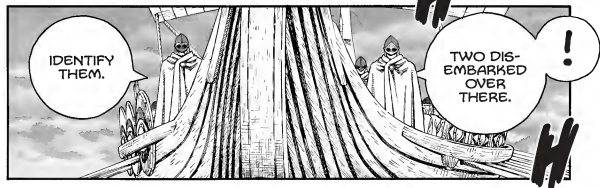
I'LL
DRAW
OFF
THEIR
PURSUIT.

WE
SHOULD
TEMPORARILY
PART
WAYS.



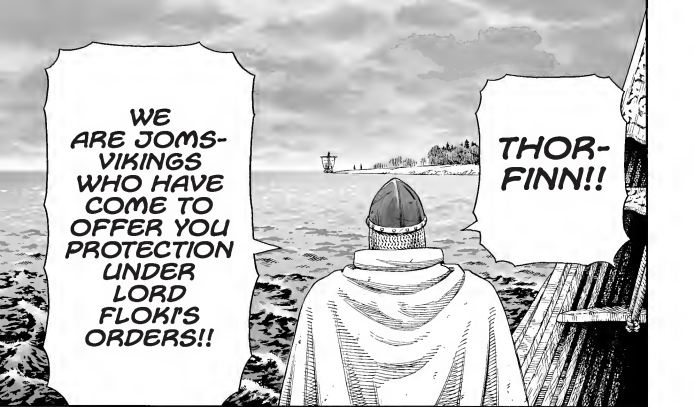


SPLASH



IDENTIFY
THEM.

TWO DIS-
EMBARKE
OVER
THERE.



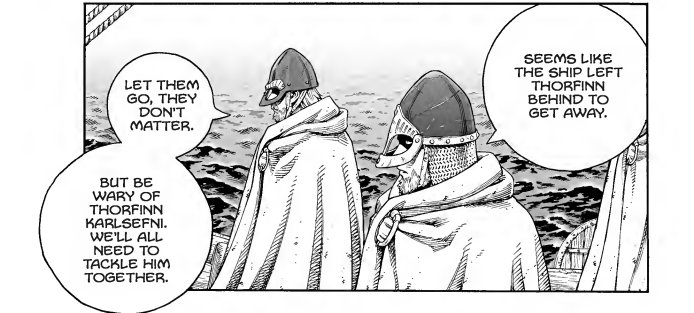
**WE
ARE JOMS-
VIKINGS
WHO HAVE
COME TO
OFFER YOU
PROTECTION
UNDER
LORD
FLOK'S
ORDERS!!**

**THOR-
FINN!!**



**NO
NEED!**

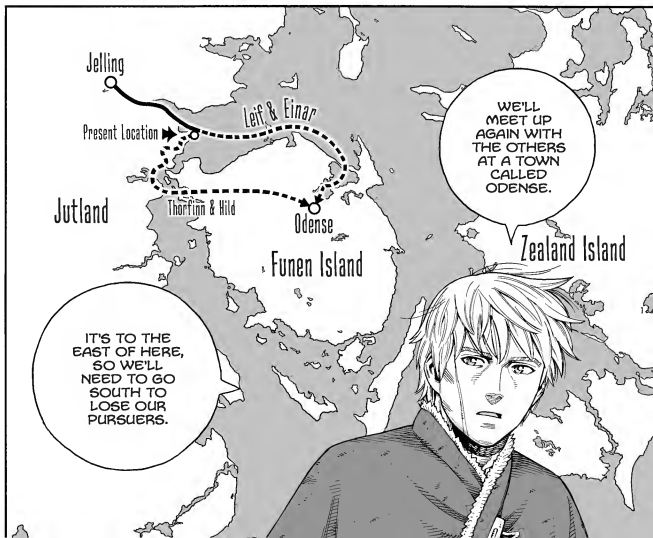
**PLEASE
GO
BACK
HOME!**



**LET THEM
GO, THEY
DON'T
MATTER.**

**BUT BE
WARE OF
THORFINN
KARLSEFNI.
WE'LL ALL
NEED TO
TACKLE HIM
TOGETHER.**

**SEEMS LIKE
THE SHIP LEFT
THORFINN
BEHIND TO
GET AWAY.**





WE'D
BETTER
HOPE THEY
DON'T PICK
UP ON
THAT PLAN,
TOO.

...HMPH.



WHOOO...



NOPE.

BOTH SHIPS
WENT AFTER
THORFINN.

...
THEY'RE...
NOT
FOLLOW-
ING.



...

...THORFINN
MIGHT
JUST BE
A LITTLE
CRAZY?

DO YOU
THINK...



HE
ALWAYS
FINDS A WAY
TO JUMP
FURTHER IN
THE DIRECTION
OF TROUBLE,
RIGHT?!

BUT
YOU
KNOW
HOW
THORFINN
IS!

THIS,
COMING
FROM THE
WOMAN WHO
STABBED HER
HUSBAND
AND RAN.

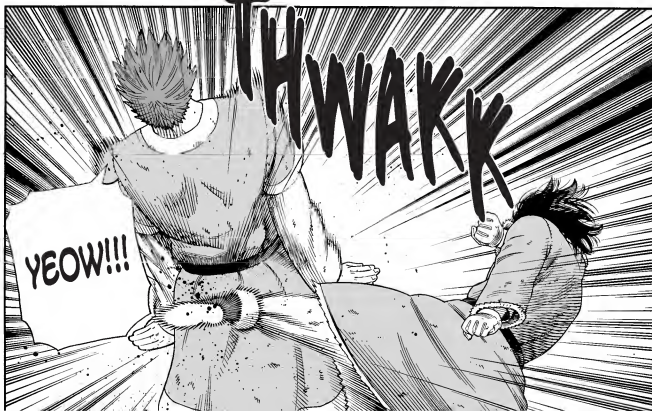


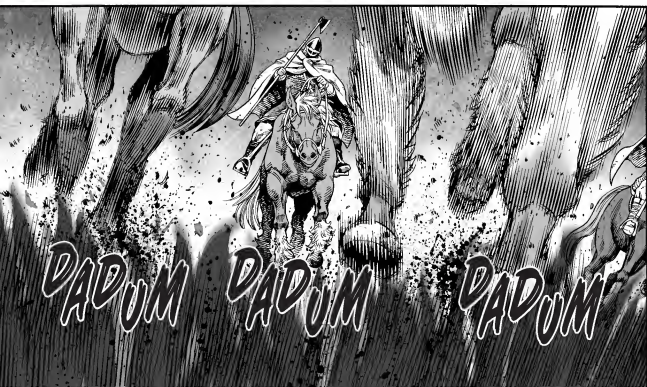
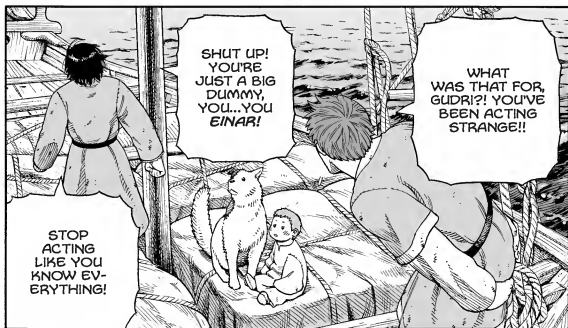
WHAT
DOES HE
THINK THE
REST OF
US ARE?
DEAD
WEIGHT?

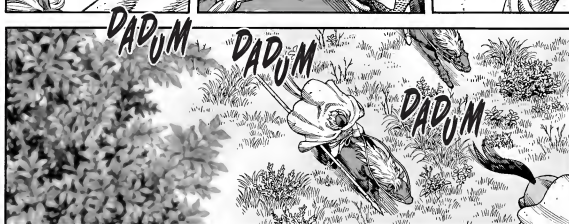
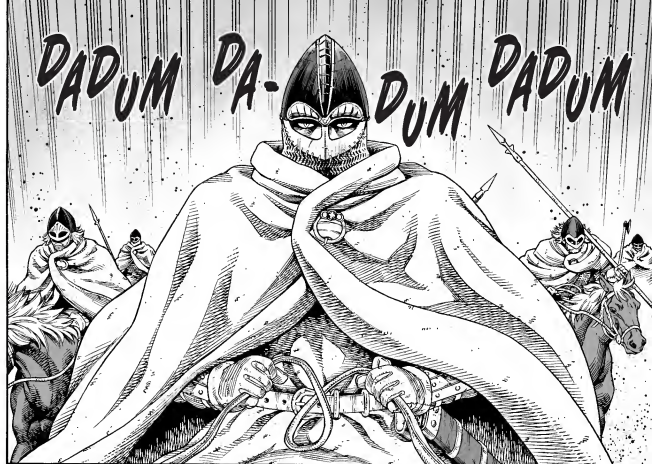
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
DID WITH
HILD?

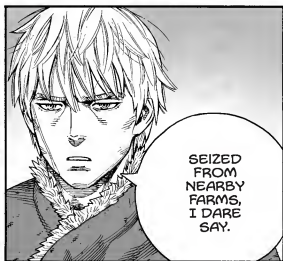
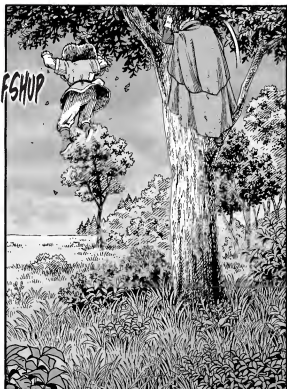
HE
ALWAYS
TRIES
TO TAKE
EVERY-
THING
ONTO
HIS OWN
SHOUL-
DERS.













LET'S
SEE IF WE
CAN FIND A
FISHERMAN
TO BARTER
WITH.

WE'LL HAVE
TO FIND A BOAT
TO TAKE US
OVER TO FUNEN
ISLAND IN
ORDER TO GET
TO ODENSE.



YOU DO?
I DON'T...

I SMELL
SMOKE.

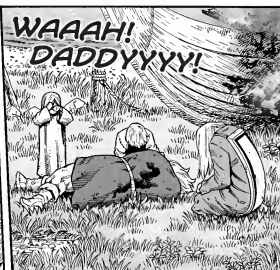
FROM
THE
COAST.

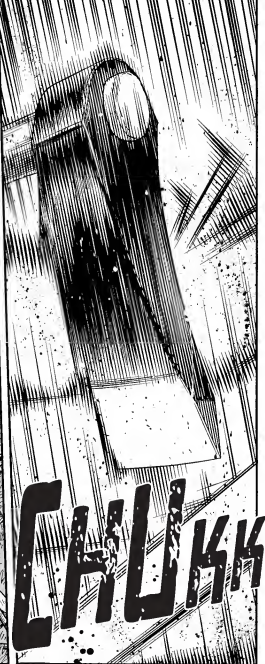


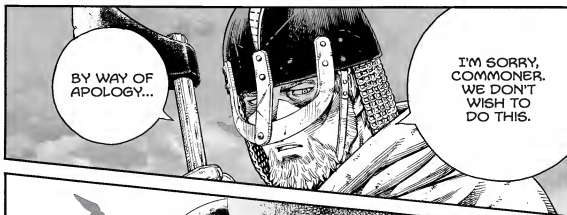
SNIFF



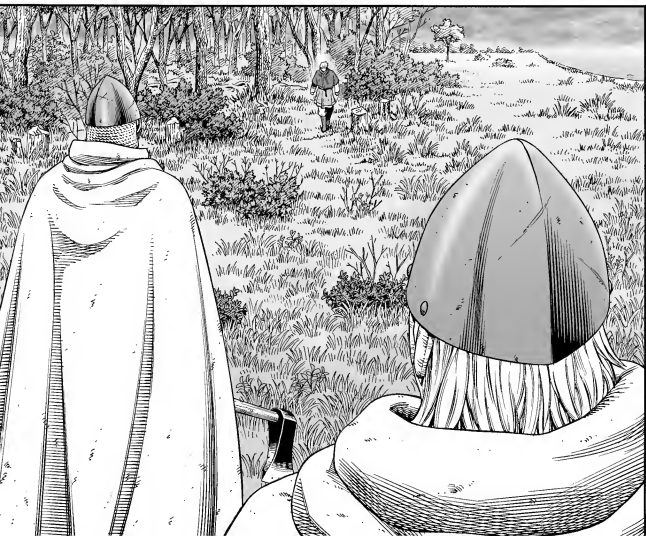




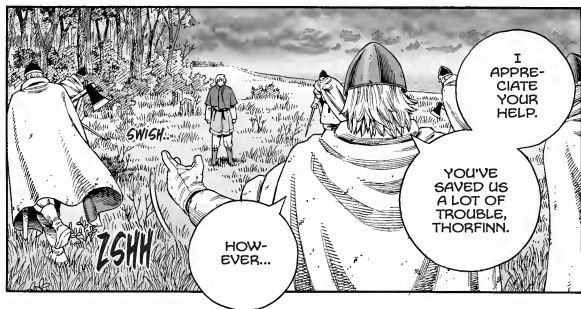
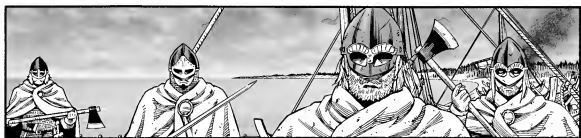
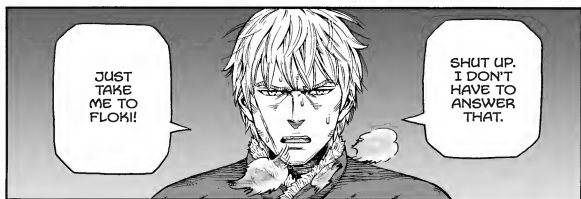




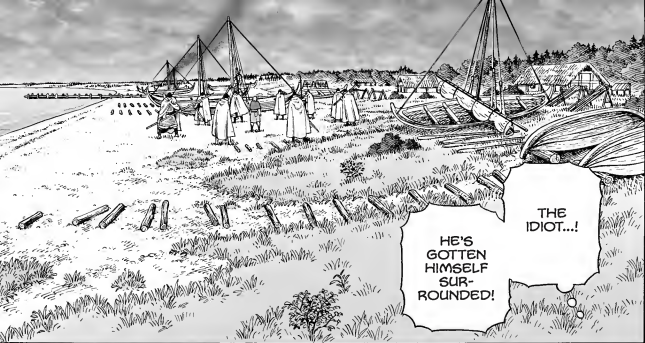
STOP!!







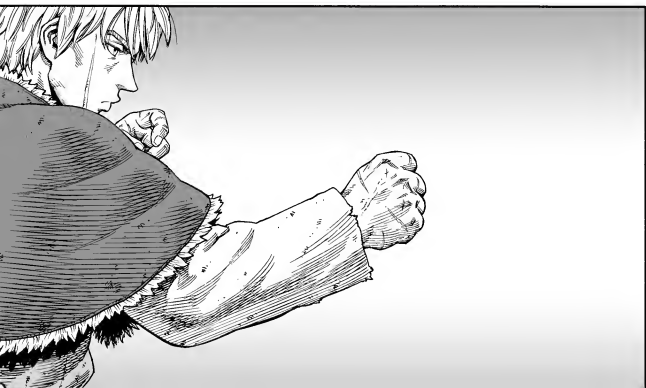








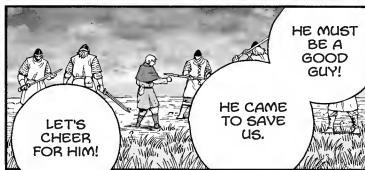
CHAPTER 129: WAR IN THE BALTIC (5)





IS THAT
MAN A
GOOD
GUY?

WHAT'S
THAT...ARE
THEY
ENEMIES?

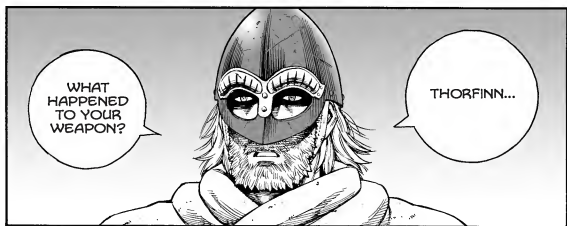


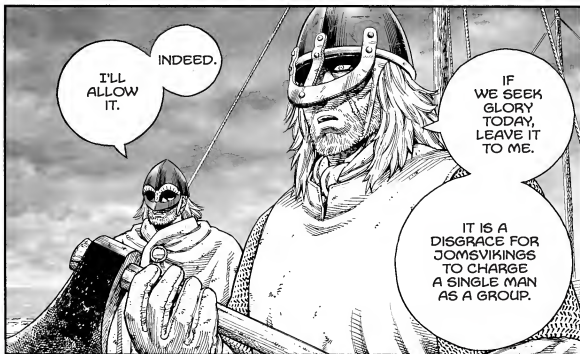
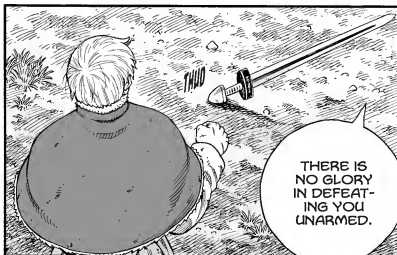
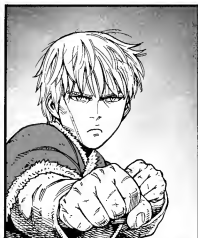
LET'S
CHEER
FOR HIM!

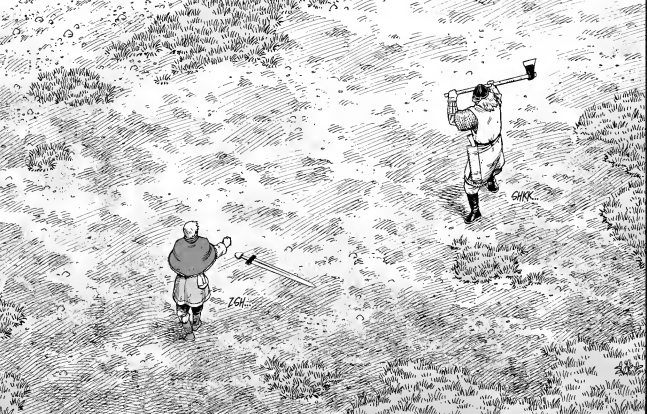
HE CAME
TO SAVE
US.

HE MUST
BE A
GOOD
GUY!









NOW PICK
UP THE
SWORD.

I'M A
LUCKY MAN:
I GET TO FIGHT
THE WARRIOR
WHO BESTED
GENERAL
THORKELL.

I
ALWAYS
FOUND
IT A
MYSTERY.

...



...WHY
DO YOU
THINK THAT
MAKES YOU
STRONGER?

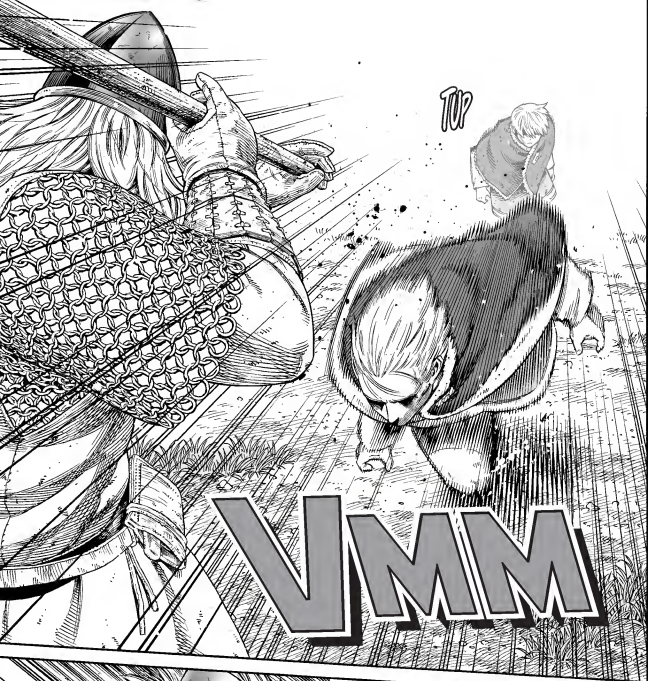
WHEN
YOU'RE
HUGE AND
BULKY...

...WITH
HEAVY
ARMS AND
ARMOR...



YOU'RE
ALL...

...TOO
SLOW.





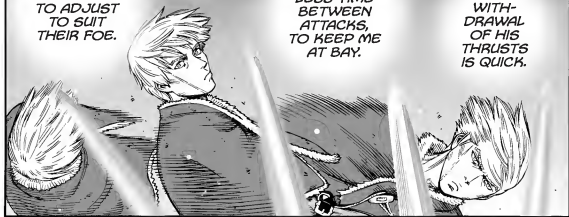




THESE
JOMSVIKINGS
KNOW HOW
TO ADJUST
TO SUIT
THEIR FOE.

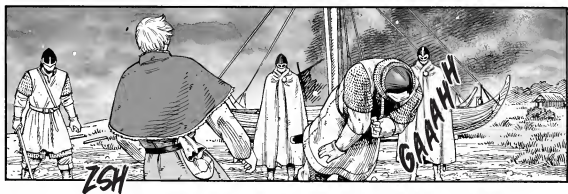
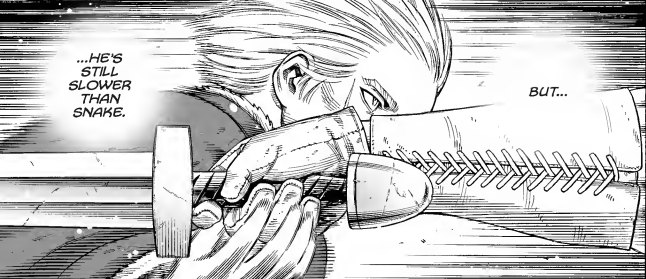
THAT
MEANS
LESS TIME
BETWEEN
ATTACKS,
TO KEEP ME
AT BAY.

THE
WITH-
DRAWAL
OF HIS
THRUSTS
IS QUICK.

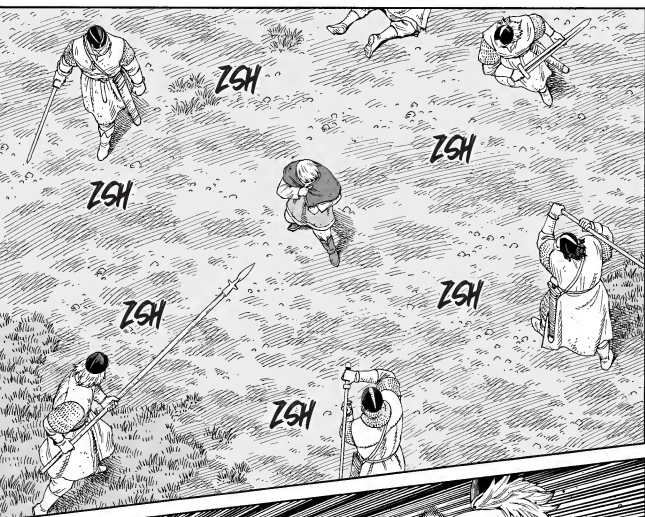


...HE'S
STILL
SLOWER
THAN
SNAKE.

BUT...











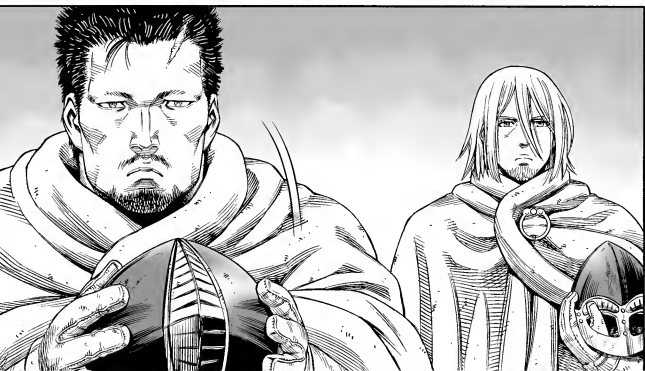
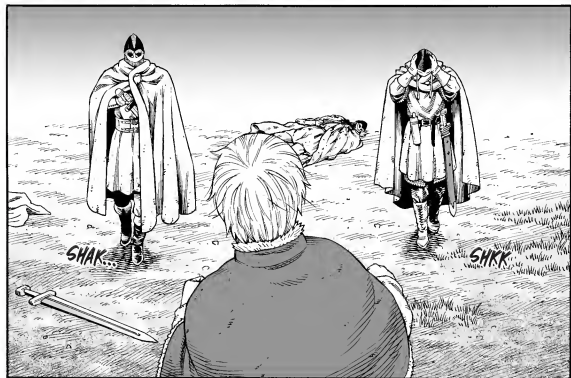


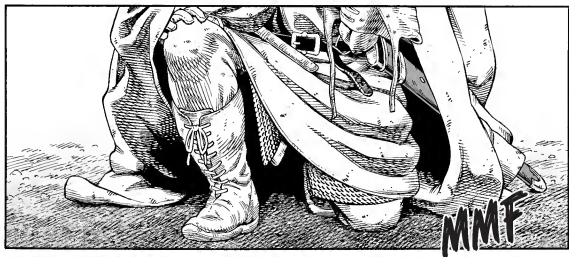


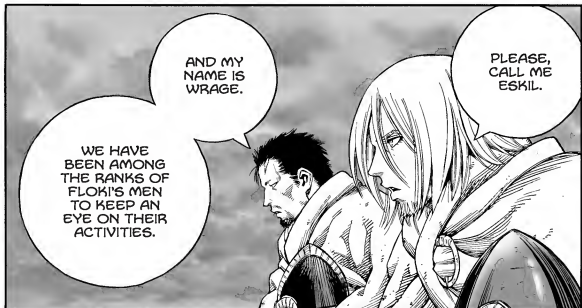


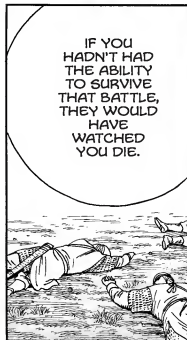


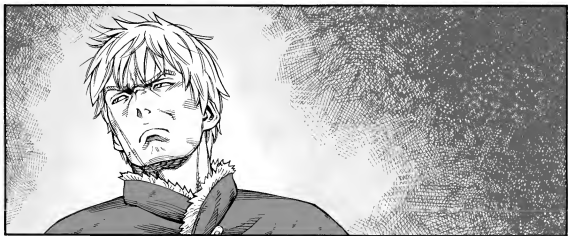




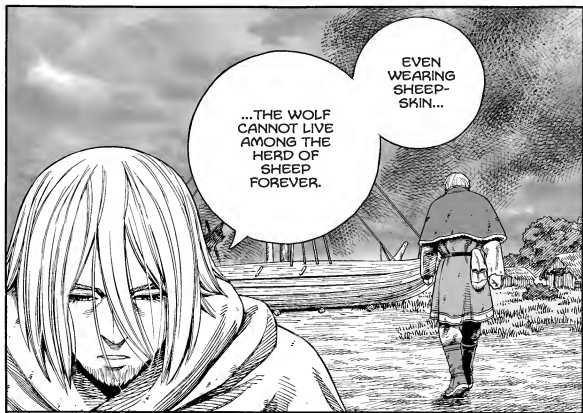
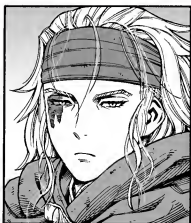
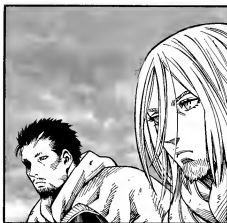


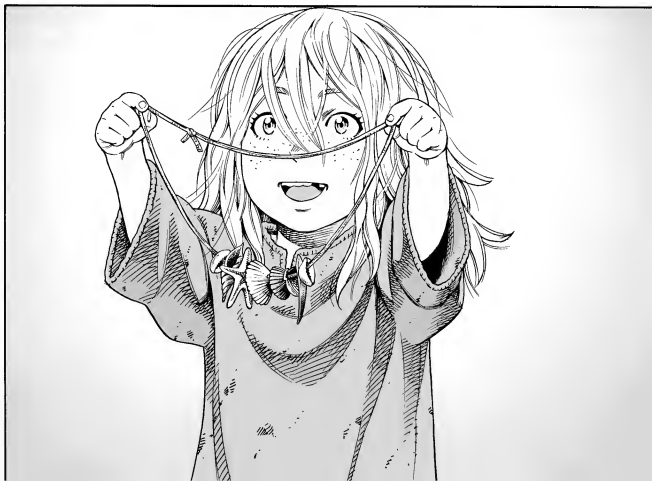
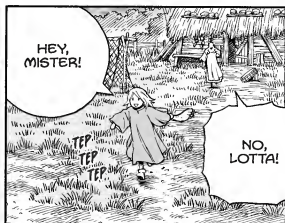
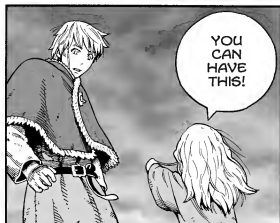
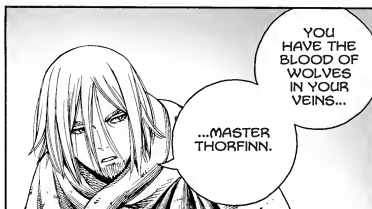


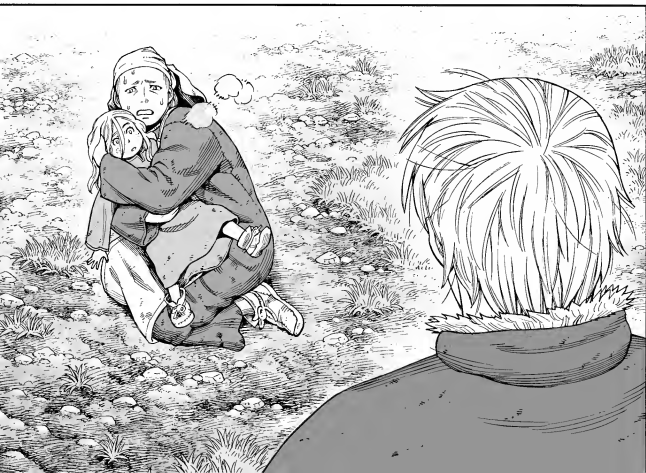
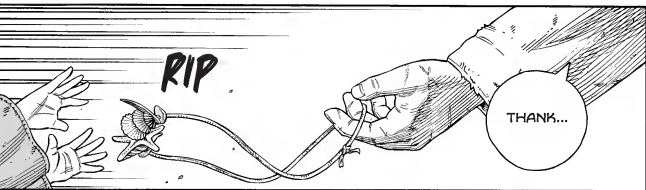
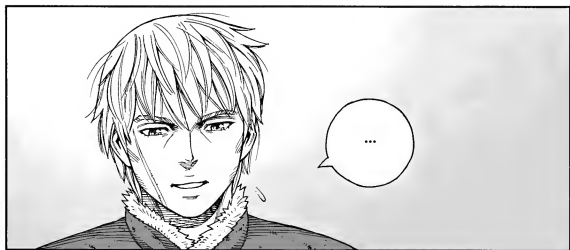


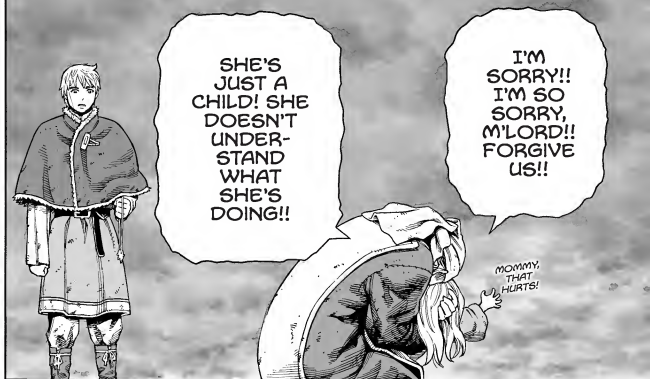


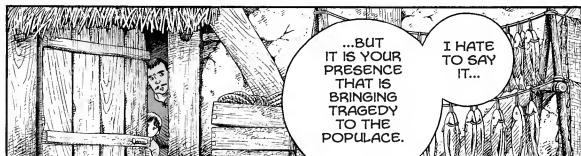
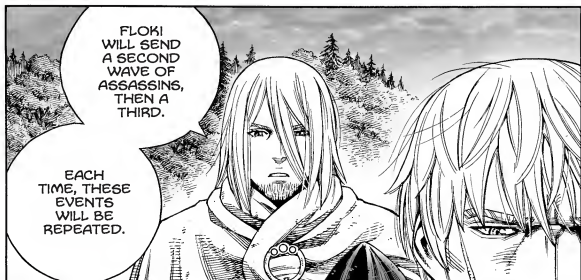


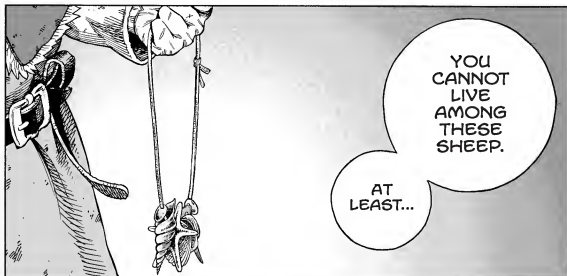












VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS

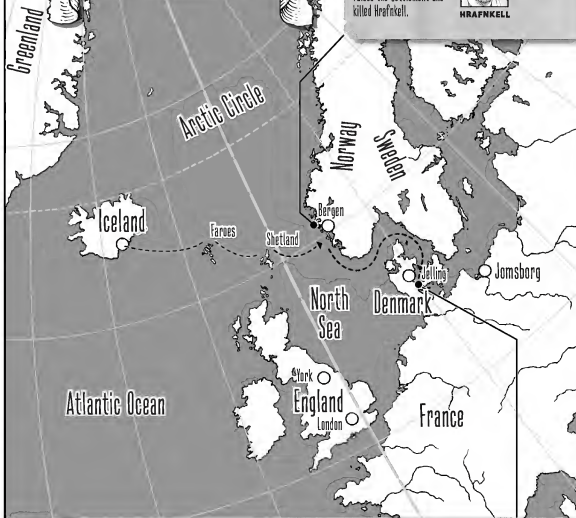


NEAR BERGEN

Thorfinn duelled Wild, a hunter who smolders for vengeance, and had to rest here to recover from his five crossbow wounds. To the south is the "Calm Fjord," the place that Wild's father Hrafnkell once lived. Eight years ago, as a member of Askeladd's band, Thorfinn raided the settlement and killed Hrafnkell.



HRAFNKELL



JELLING



Thorfinn's party travels to distant Greece in the east to sell their valuable narwhal horns and fund their trip to create a nation of peace in Vinland. They stop here to buy rations to last them along their route. Jelling happens to be where the Danish king resides, as well as Thorfinn's great-uncle, the war-seeking Thorkell.



THORFINN



EINAR



BUG-EYED
THORFINN



LEIF



GUDRID



KARLI



DOG

SPECIAL BONUS

HILD'S CROSSBOW

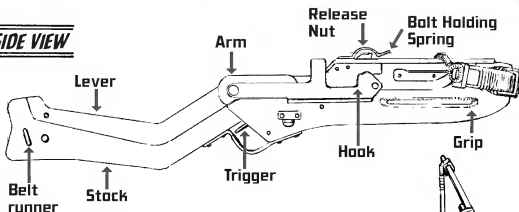
Length: about 29 inches

Width (bow span): about 25 inches

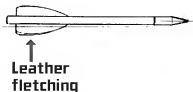
Weight: about 6.5 lbs

Max draw weight (pull tension): 200 lbs

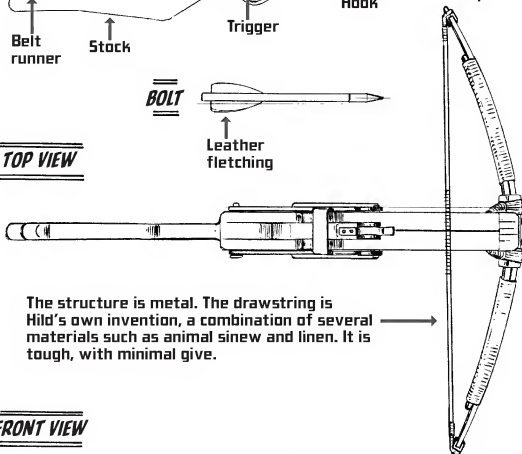
SIDE VIEW



BOLT

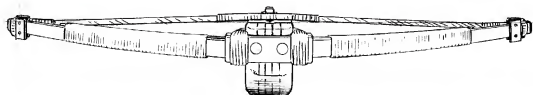


TOP VIEW



The structure is metal. The drawstring is Hild's own invention, a combination of several materials such as animal sinew and linen. It is tough, with minimal give.

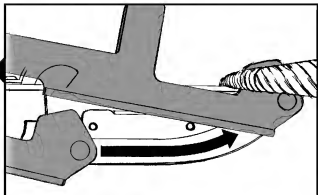
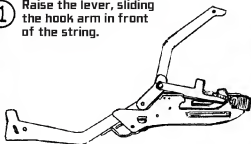
FRONT VIEW



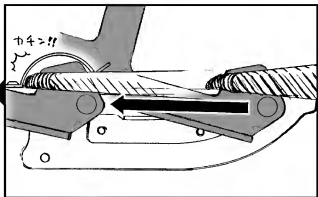
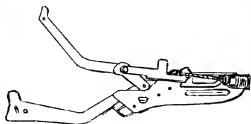
THE CLICKING MECHANISM

Thanks to this loading system, Hild needs only 40 pounds of pressure to nock the string to 200 pounds of tension. It can also fire up to twenty times in a minute! Awesome! The drawbacks are its weight and the intense upkeep required.

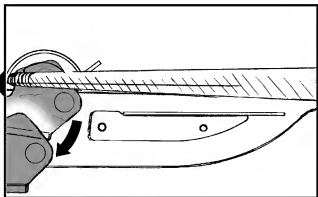
- ① Raise the lever, sliding the hook arm in front of the string.



- ② When the lever is pulled back to this position, it draws the string back to the release nut (the catch).



- ③ The release nut automatically locks in place, holding the string back. The lever can be returned to its starting position, where the hook arm rests in its slot.



The inner workings of the mechanism to ensure the release nut rotates into loading position are Hild's own invention, and thus are classified.

The construction, "..., son of ..." pops up a lot, and in eleventh-century Scandinavia, one's parentage was considered an extremely important piece of information. Without an understanding of who has fair claim to an estate or a foundation of power, bloodshed is certain to result. Then again, sometimes it is the fair claim itself that leads to bloodshed. The Icelandic sagas were medieval documents that tracked, in almost obnoxious detail, the lineage of who married whom, and who their children and children's children were. But of course, family ties are important in every culture and every era. Even Thorfinn winds up in trouble due to family ties that he cannot simply ignore. However! Everyone has a mother and father. Then come two grandfathers and grandmothers each. And four great-grandfathers and -grandmothers. If you trace that back ten generations...you'll have 2,046 ancestors, just by direct lineage! And if you include all the cousins and family branches, you can have an enormous number of distant relatives, just within a ten-generation span! It's amazing. Perhaps that person you walk past on the street is actually a fairly close relative. Maybe you and I are second cousins. No, really. We're all related. Let's all get along.

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
SAGA**

Translation Notes

Thing, page 261

The name for the assembly of local leaders in Germanic and Norse cultures. The Icelandic Althing is famous for being essentially the oldest active parliament in the world, dating back to 930 AD, but the concept itself was practiced far and wide in Northern Europe, and forms the basis for the English word “thing,” as in “matter” or “object.”



ASK YUKIMURA

Kodansha Comics: *In your afterwords, you often delve into the extensive research you performed for Vinland Saga. Have you begun to see anything in your everyday life differently since you began drawing the series?*

Yukimura: After receiving this question, I thought long and hard, but it seems there hasn't been much of a change in my own self-awareness or consciousness. *Vinland Saga* started serialization 12 years ago. At that point, I had already wrapped up most of the research and data collection for the series. The general story had also been decided by then, too. So the work that I had planned back then, despite some delays here and there, has been moving along quite smoothly. In regards to the work itself, the daily ins and outs are quite monotonous. When I think back on it, those 12 years really flew by. I was scribbling away at my desk, drawing, and before I knew it, so much time had passed. The way I see things hasn't changed due to *Vinland Saga*'s serialization, but during its serialization, I got married and was graced with three children—that really changed my way of thinking and how I lived. One room in my home is an office, so I'm always with my kids. I'm constantly thinking that I have to be a role model for the kids. Back before *Vinland* got serialized, I used to live alone, and compared to those days, my life now is much more proper.

Kodansha Comics: *Wildlife appears in the story often—each animal's individual personality and artwork has enriched the rest of the story. What inspires you to focus on the symbolism of certain animals? Are there other animals you wish you could include?*

Yukimura: Take the bear, for example. It's Europe's strongest land

animal, and I've always wanted to draw it at least once. Drawing a bear means the art will be nice and flashy, but it's worth depicting specifically because of how it symbolizes a brute strength that cannot be reasoned with. One day, it just hit me that the way each character interacts with the bear can reflect how they deal with violence. Thorfinn would want to escape, but if that's not possible, he would try very hard to only counter the bear. Hild, in order to survive, would think up a method of attack that goes beyond the bear's abilities. Thorkill would fool around and tease the bear for his own amusement, and then kill it. From the bear's perspective, it's quite troublesome to have to deal with humans at all.

Iceland's terns are well known as the birds that fly the longest distances in the world. In the summer, they lay eggs in the Arctic regions. Later in the year, during the winter, they fly to Antarctica. They're migratory birds with extraordinary vitality. Actually, researching terns helped me really solidify Gudrid's character. She's truly "a tethered tern."

What I'll be drawing next is not yet fixed, but I think I'll be drawing lots of wildlife. Not just animals, plants too. There may be lots of new flora and fauna in Vinland—the likes of which Thorfinn and his crew have never seen before. I'm very excited to draw them!

Kodansha Comics: *You've shared with us previously that you wanted to create a new type of shonen hero who does not use violence to solve all of his problems. Of course, the character drama has remained very tense and engaging even in these later chapters, but were you concerned that, once the story began to focus more on Thorfinn's pacifism, readers would miss the exciting action from earlier in the series?*

Yukimura: Absolutely. I've been worried about that since the arc

where Thorfinn became a slave. Well, I planned that since before *Vinland Saga* was published, so I've been worrying about this issue since before I drew chapter one. (Laughs.) I even recall that some people scolded me over social media.

As long as manga is entertainment, I recognize that it is the creator's job to make something that readers truly want, and can enjoy. A triumphant hero who's super cool in battle—I understand that that's what the audience desires.

However, I racked my brain over whether or not I could create a hero that's even more awesome than the aforementioned battle-ready protagonist. Then I realized that it's also my job as a creator to try really hard to make this kind of hero. I know this is a bit self-serving, but I secretly hope that you will be sympathetic and read *Vinland Saga* as partially an experiment in achieving that... Well, if I write that here, then it's not very secret, is it? (Laughs.)

I am illustrating a hero that I believe is awesome, from the bottom of my heart. Perhaps it is unbecoming of an entertainer to be so selfish, but if my readers can embrace this—well, nothing would make me happier. I'll work hard to be worthy of your continued support.

That's all for now. I will keep creating and putting forth my best efforts. I am grateful for your continued support going forwards, and hope you will join me to the end of this journey!

H A P P I N E S S

——ハピネス——

By Shuzo Oshimi

From the creator of *The Flowers of Evil*

Nothing interesting is happening in Makoto Ozaki's first year of high school. His life is a series of quiet humiliations: low-grade bullies, unreliable friends, and the constant frustration of his adolescent lust. But one night, a pale, thin girl knocks him to the ground in an alley and offers him a choice.

Now everything is different. Daylight is searingly bright. Food tastes awful. And worse than anything is the terrible, consuming thirst...

Praise for Shuzo Oshimi's *The Flowers of Evil*

"A shockingly readable story that vividly—one might even say queasily—evokes the fear and confusion of discovering one's own sexuality. Recommended." —The Manga Critic

"A page-turning tale of sordid middle school blackmail." —Otaku USA Magazine

"A stunning new horror manga." —Third Eye Comics



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The Black Museum ^{The} Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this “Black Museum” sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of *The Ghost and the Lady*...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita's *Ushio and Tora*

“A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**” — Anime News Network

“**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of '90s anime.” — IGN

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"Parasyte fans should get a kick out of the chance to revisit Iwaaki's weird, violent, strangely affecting universe. Recommended." -Otaku USA Magazine

"A great anthology containing an excellent variety of genres and styles." -Manga Bookshelf

Based on the critically acclaimed classic horror manga

The first new *Parasyte* manga in
over 20 years!

NEO PARASYTE

BY ASUMIKO NAKAMURA, EMA TOYAMA, MIKI RINNO, LALAKO KOJIMA, KAORI YUKI,
BANKO KUZE, YUUKI OBATA, KASHIO, YUI KUROE, ASIA WATANABE, MIKIMAKI,
HIKARU SURUGA, HAJIME SHINJO, RENJURO KINDAICHI, AND YURI NARUSHIMA

A collection of chilling new *Parasyte* stories from Japan's top shojo artists!

Parasites: shape-shifting aliens whose only purpose is to assimilate with and consume the human race... but do these monsters have a different side? A parasite becomes a prince to save his romance-obsessed female host from a dangerous stalker. Another hosts a cooking show, in which the real monsters are revealed. These and 13 more stories, from some of the greatest shojo manga artists alive today, together make up a chilling, funny, and entertaining tribute to one of manga's horror classics!

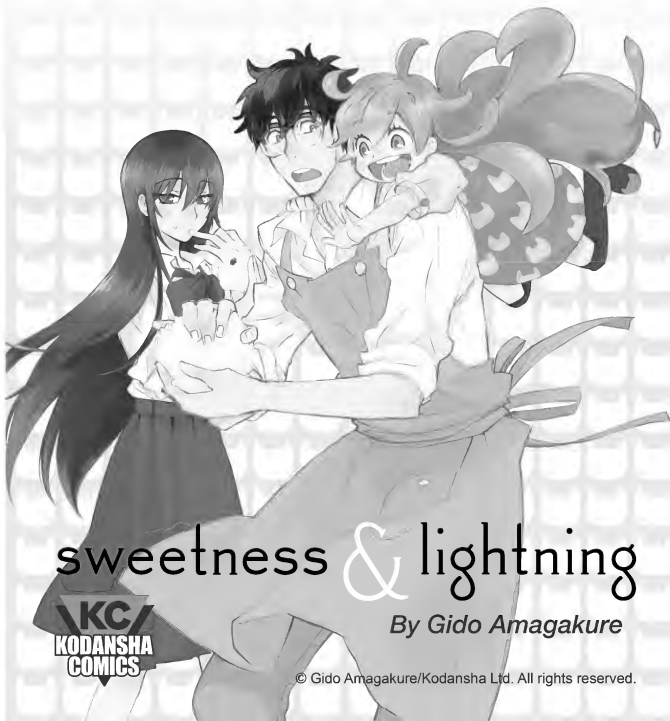
© Hitoshi Iwaaki, Asumiko Nakamura, Ema Toyama, Miki Rinno, Lalako Kojima, Kaori Yuki, Banko Kuze, Yuuki Obata, Kashio, Yui Kuroe, Asia Watanabe, Mikimaki, Hikaru Suruga, Hajime Shinjo, Renjuro Kindaichi, Yuri Narushima/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.



Having lost his wife, high school teacher Kōhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family together with one of his students, the lonely Kotori. The three of them are anything but comfortable in the kitchen, but the healing power of home cooking might just work on their grieving hearts.

"This season's number-one feel-good anime!" —Anime News Network

"A beautifully-drawn story about comfort food and family and grief. Recommended." —Otaku USA Magazine



sweetness & lightning

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By Gido Amagakure

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© Hiroyuki Takei/Kodansha Ltd. All rights reserved.

*New action series from Hiroyuki Takei, creator of
the classic shonen franchise Shaman King!*

In medieval Japan, a bell hanging on the collar is a sign that a cat has a master. Norachiyo's bell hangs from his katana sheath, but he is nonetheless a stray — a ronin. This one-eyed cat samurai travels across a dishonest world, cutting through pretense and deception with his blade.

Nekogatahara

STRAY CAT
SAMURAI

By
Hiroyuki Takei





"An emotional and artistic tour de force! We see incredible triumph, and crushing defeat... each panel [is] a thrill!"
—Anitay

"A journey that's instantly compelling."
—Anime News Network

WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

By Tomo Takeuchi

Feckless high school student Tatara Fujita wants to be good at something—anything. Unfortunately, he's about as average as a slouchy teen can be. The local bullies know this, and make it a habit to hit him up for cash, but all that changes when the debonair Kaname Sengoku sends them packing. Sengoku's not the neighborhood watch, though. He's a professional ballroom dancer. And once Tatara Fujita gets pulled into the world of ballroom, his life will never be the same.



Japan's
most powerful
spirit medium
delves into the
ghost world's
greatest
mysteries!

Story by Kyo
Shirodaira, famed
author of mystery
fiction and creator of
Spiral, *Blast of Tempest*,
and *The Record of a
Fallen Vampire*.



Both touched by spirits called yōkai, Kotoko and Kurō have gained unique superhuman powers. But to gain her powers Kotoko has given up an eye and a leg, and Kurō's personal life is in shambles. So when Kotoko suggests they team up to deal with renegades from the spirit world, Kurō doesn't have many other choices, but Kotoko might just have a few ulterior motives...

IN/SPECTRE

STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA
ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

The award-winning manga about what happens inside you!

"Far more entertaining than it ought to be... what kid doesn't want to think that every time they sneeze a torpedo shoots out their nose?"

—Anime News Network



Strep throat! Hay fever! Influenza! The world is a dangerous place for a red blood cell just trying to get her deliveries finished. Fortunately, she's not alone...she's got a whole human body's worth of cells ready to help out! The mysterious white blood cells, the buff and brash killer T cells, even the cute little platelets—everyone's got to come together if they want to keep you healthy!

Cells at Work!

はたらく細胞

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A new
series
from the
creator
of *Soul
Eater*, the
megahit
manga and
anime seen
on Toonami!

"Fun and lively...
a great start!"
-Adventures in
Poor Taste

FIRE FORCE

By Atsushi Ohkubo

The city of Tokyo is plagued by a deadly phenomenon: spontaneous human combustion! Luckily, a special team is there to quench the inferno: The Fire Force! The fire soldiers at Special Fire Cathedral 8 are about to get a unique addition. Enter Shinra, a boy who possesses the power to run at the speed of a rocket, leaving behind the famous "devil's footprints" (and destroying his shoes in the process). Can Shinra and his colleagues discover the source of this strange epidemic before the city burns to ashes?

Vinland Saga 9

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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